Hafa Adai!

DeLeon Guerrero may likely become next Senate president. PAGE 4
PSS' Ada's help sought in the transition, inaugural committees. PAGE 7

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Death threats in email blast?

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is looking into a mass email threat sent late last Monday evening in relation to the threatening videos that have been circulating on the internet since last weekend.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, DPS has been getting disturbance reports since around 10pm last Monday evening about death

See DEATH on Page 4

Sablan, Sikkel win VFW contests

Winners of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy audio-essay and Patriot's Pen essay contests, from left, Audry Paige White, Serin Chung, Irin Chung, Phoenix Sapphire Gross, and VOD first-place winner Jesus T. Sablan pose for a photo with VFW Post 3457 commander Robert DeRocher last Monday night at an awards ceremony at the VFW Bar. Moshe Sikkel, who won first place in the Patriot's Pen essay contest, was not present at the ceremony. LEIGH GASES

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Once again, Saipan International School students swept this year's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth essay contest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457, as announced last Monday at the VFW Bar.

Jesus T. Sablan won first place in the VOD audio-

See VFW on Page 4

AD inauguration invites may be out this week

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Inauguration Subcommittee is planning to disseminate this week the digitized invitations to the January inauguration of incoming Palacios-Apatang administration, to be followed by hard copy of the official invitation.

This developed as Brianna C. Hunter, who is the acting special assistant for communications at the Office of the Governor, announced Monday afternoon that the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe will not be available to reserve for use from now until after Jan. 9, 2023, in preparation for the inauguration of incoming administration of governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and lieuten-

See AD on Page 4

US scientists set to announce fusion energy breakthrough

By MICHAEL PHILLIS, JENNIFER McDERMOTT, MADDIE BURAKOFF and MATTHEW DALY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm was set to announce a "major scientific breakthrough" Tuesday in the decades-long quest to harness fusion, the energy that powers the sun and stars.

Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California for the first time produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, something called net energy gain, according to one government official and one scientist familiar with the research.

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Students and staff of Grace Christian Academy will be singing at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Friday.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
What's new? When it comes to interior design trends, the answer is a myriad of timeless trends.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
The crowd at Dave Chappelle's show made some noise for the world's richest man. Lots of booing.

PAGE 15

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Local

DHS, DOL announce availability of additional H-2B visas for FY 2023

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Labor are issuing a temporary final rule that makes available 64,716 additional H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visas for fiscal year 2023. These supplemental H-2B visas are for U.S. employers seeking to petition for additional workers at certain periods of the fiscal year before Sept. 15, 2023.

"The department is making supplemental H-2B visas available earlier than ever, ensuring that American businesses can plan for their peak season labor needs," said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas. "At a time of record job growth, these visas will also provide a safe and lawful pathway to the United States for noncitizens prepared to take jobs that are not filled by American workers."

The supplemental H-2B visa allocation consists of roughly 44,700 visas available to returning workers who received an H-2B visa or were otherwise granted H-2B status during one of the last three fiscal years. The remaining 20,000 visas are reserved for nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Haiti, regardless of whether they are returning workers. The statutory semiannual cap authorized under the Immigration and Nationality Act (statutory cap) of 33,000 visas for the first half of FY 2023 was reached on Sept. 12, 2022.

The supplemental H-2B visas have been divided into the following allocations:

■ For employers seeking nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Haiti: There are 20,000 visas reserved for the entirety of FY 2023. Employers requesting an employment start date in the first half of FY 2023 may file such petitions starting Dec. 15, 2022. Employers requesting an employment start date in the second half of FY 2023 must file such petitions no earlier than 15 days after the second half statutory cap is reached.

■ For the first half of FY 2023: There are 18,216 immediately available visas limited to returning workers regardless of country of nationality. These petitions must request employment start dates on or before Mar. 31, 2023. Employers requesting an employment start date in the first half of FY 2023 may file such petitions starting Dec. 15, 2022.

■ For the early second half of FY 2023 (Apr. 1 to May 14): There are 16,500 visas limited to returning workers regardless of country of nationality. These early second half of FY 2023 petitions must request employment start dates from Apr. 1, 2023, to May 14, 2023. Furthermore, employers must file these petitions no earlier than 15 days after the second half statutory cap is reached.

■ For the late second half of FY 2023 (May 15 to Sept. 30): There are 10,000 visas limited to returning workers regardless of country of nationality. These late second half of FY 2023 petitions must request employment start dates from May 15, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2023. Furthermore, employers must file these petitions no earlier than 45 days after the second half statutory cap is reached.

This is the first time the departments have issued a single rule making available H-2B supplemental visas for several allocations throughout the entire fiscal year, including an allocation for the late second half.

The H-2B program permits employers to temporarily hire noncitizens to perform nonagricultural labor or services in the United States. The employment must be for a limited period of time; the petitioner must have a temporary need for services or labor to be performed, i.e., a one-time occurrence, peak load need, seasonal need, or intermittent need. The departments are soliciting comments from the public on their implementation of the H-2B supplemental authority in this rule.

Employers seeking to hire H-2B workers under the FY 2023 supplemental cap must attest that they are suffering or will suffer impending irreparable harm without the ability to employ all of the H-2B workers requested on the petition. Employers seeking to hire H-2B workers must take a series of steps to test the U.S. labor market. They must provide certification from DOL that proves there are not enough U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available to do the temporary work for which they seek a prospective foreign worker, and that employing the H-2B workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers. Employers filing an H-2B petition 30 or more days after the certified start date on the temporary labor certification must also take certain additional steps to recruit U.S. workers.

It is also critically important to protect H-2B workers from exploitation and abuse, and to ensure, consistent with law, that employers do not refuse to hire or appropriately recruit U.S. workers to perform the temporary work. The temporary final rule features several provisions to protect both U.S. and H-2B workers. For example, DHS will subject employers that have committed certain labor law violations in the H-2B program to additional scrutiny in the supplemental cap petition process. This additional scrutiny is aimed at ensuring compliance with H-2B program requirements and obligations. In addition, the departments are participating in the White House-convened H-2B Worker Protection Taskforce, announced in October, to address these issues more broadly.

Petitions requesting supplemental allocations under this rule must be filed at the California Service Center. Petitions filed under the supplemental allocations in this rule at any location other than the California Service Center will be rejected and the filing fees will be returned. In addition, for petitions requesting returning workers, or workers from Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras, with a start date in the first half of the fiscal year, USCIS will not accept any requests for premium processing until Jan. 3, 2023. USCIS will reject the I-907 and return the premium processing filing fee if the I-907 was received before Jan. 3, 2023. ***(USCIS)***

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03
NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS
Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News*
*Source:
i Minagåhet – Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Mariana Islands
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Docomo Pacific donates $5K to NMC for golf tourney

From left. Northern Marianas College administrative services program coordinator Greg Sablan, Docomo Pacific CNMI consumer sales manager Nicole Babauta, NMC Foundation program coordinator Carla Sablan, NMC financial aid counselor Verna Deleon Guerrero, Docomo Pacific CNMI general manager Pauline Johnson, NMC facilities administrative manager Shirley Blas, Docomo Pacific CNMI enterprise sales manager Joseph Torres, and Docomo Pacific CNMI brand manager Brent Deleon Guerrero.

DOCOMO PACIFIC

As part of its longstanding commitment to higher education, telecommunications provider Docomo Pacific recently donated $5,000 to Northern Marianas College in support of NMC's upcoming golf open in March 2023.

"Success requires the effort and collaboration of those who seek a better tomorrow for all," Docomo Pacific brand manager Brent Deleon Guerrero said. "Our mission has always been and always will be to find ways to fulfill our social responsibility in areas with the most impact and that matter most. When we work together, we can build back better. We are proud to be a part of NMC's journey in fostering the best environment for the CNMI's best to thrive and succeed."

For the first time, NMC's tournament will be a two-day event and will be held on March 18 and 19, 2023, on the east and west courses of the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. The tournament fee for the 2023 golf open is $250.

"We are thankful for Docomo Pacific's continued support of the Northern Marianas College," said NMC Foundation board chairperson Ben Babauta.

The tournament, which is the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to raise funds for the college for its rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. Despite the devastation and destruction of Super Typhoon Soudelor and Yutu, the college has been aggressively seeking funds from all available sources to rebuild classrooms, offices, labs, and workforce spaces for the CNMI community. The college is seeking the CNMI private sector's support through fundraising events like the golf tournament.

Interested companies and individuals who would like to help the college with its rebuilding efforts can donate educational tax credit, cash, or in-kind contributions by visiting www.marianas.edu/golf or by contacting NMC Foundation coordinator Carla Sablan at carla.sablan@marianas.edu or (670) 237-6780.

Golfers who would like to register for the upcoming tournament can also visit www.marianas.edu/golf. Only online payments are accepted for this upcoming golf open.

For more updates, follow NMC on Facebook and Instagram (nmc.proa) or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

MVA, United Airlines host Japan's UUUM Golf

The Marianas Visitors Authority and United Airlines recently welcomed a familiarization tour for Japan's UUUM Golf YouTube channel on Saipan, highlighting the destination's professionally designed courses.

MVA

Participants of the familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority for Japan's UUUM Golf YouTube channel celebrate their skydiving tour at Skydive Saipan on Nov. 18, 2022.

UUUM Golf has 800,000 subscribers and 10 million video views each month, targeting men in their 40s and 50s who are interested in golf and overseas golf courses. The familiarization tour—known in the industry as a FAM tour—in November 2022 highlighted LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, and Kingfisher Golf Links and included professional golfer Yuta Sodo.

MVA assisted the tour by facilitating filming permits at the golf course and other locations.

"Golfers and divers remain the largest niche markets for the Marianas, and the MVA is paying particular attention to these two groups as we try to entice Japanese visitors while the yen is weak against the U.S. dollar," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres. "We are also offering a golf promotion through March 2023 to attract golfers here during these winter months in Japan. Supporting FAM tours is a relatively small financial investment for the amount of exposure we receive, in this case, via YouTube and UUUM's other social media channels."

During their visit, the group lodged at Surfrider Resort Saipan and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. They also filmed at SkyDive Saipan, Salty's, Surf Club Saipan, Mariana Lighthouse, Micro Beach, and other locations. ***(MVA)***

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DeLeon Guerrero

DeLeon Guerrero may likely become next Senate president

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) will likely be the Senate president in the incoming 23rd Legislature.

Sources at the Legislature and the camp of governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and lieutenant governor-elect David M. Apatang disclosed that the Senate president position will be a toss-up between DeLeon Guerrero and Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who won a Saipan Senate seat in the Nov. 8 general elections.

However, DeLeon Guerrero may likely be selected by senators as president considering that she is senior to Babauta.

DeLeon Guerrero has yet to comment if she is interested in the position.Babauta also has yet to comment on the matter.

In the incoming 23rd Legislature, the independents and Democrats will be the new majority.

Aside from DeLeon Guerrero and Babauta, the new majority members will be Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Ex-IPI pit manager files discrimination suit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former pit manager at the casino of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI against the casino investor, alleging discrimination.

Stephen Abonita, a Philippine national previously employed by IPI as a casino pit supervisor, has filed a discrimination lawsuit against his former employer, alleging that IPI paid him significantly less than his Caucasian and Chinese fellow pit managers because he is a Filipino. A pit manager typically supervises the operation of the casino floor.

Abonita, through his attorney, Bruce Berline, also claims that IPI required him to work overtime but failed to compensate him for it and retaliated against him for joining protests against the company alongside his fellow Filipinos.

The plaintiff is demanding a jury trial and wants the court to order IPI to pay him back pay, front pay, emotional distress pay, punitive damages, and other relief the court may deem necessary.

According to the lawsuit, the two causes of action in this case are discrimination and breach of contract.

Berline said that IPI discriminated against his client by paying him less than his fellow supervisors and breached his employee contract by requiring him to come into work 30 minutes earlier than his schedule and not compensating him for those hours.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

US

From Page 1

Both spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the breakthrough ahead of the announcement.

Granholm was scheduled to appear alongside Livermore researchers at a morning event in Washington. The Department of Energy declined to give details ahead of time. The news was first reported by the Financial Times.

Proponents of fusion hope that it could one day produce nearly limitless, carbon-free energy, displacing fossil fuels and other traditional energy sources. Producing energy that powers homes and businesses from fusion is still decades away. But researchers said it was a significant step nonetheless.

"It's almost like it's a starting gun going off," said Professor Dennis Whyte, director of the Plasma Science and Fusion Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a leader in fusion research. "We should be pushing towards making fusion energy systems available to tackle climate change and energy security."

Net energy gain has been an elusive goal because fusion happens at such high temperatures and pressures that it is incredibly difficult to control.

Fusion works by pressing hydrogen atoms into each other with such force that they combine into helium, releasing enormous amounts of energy and heat. Unlike other nuclear reactions, it doesn't create radioactive waste.

Billions of dollars and decades of work have gone into fusion research that has produced exhilarating results—for fractions of a second. Previously, researchers at the National Ignition Facility, the division of Lawrence Livermore where the success took place, used 192 lasers and temperatures multiple times hotter than the center of the sun to create an extremely brief fusion reaction.

The lasers focus an enormous amount of heat on a small metal can. The result is a superheated plasma environment where fusion may occur.

Riccardo Betti, a professor at the University of Rochester and expert in laser fusion, said an announcement that net energy had been gained in a fusion reaction would be significant. But he said there's a long road ahead before the result generates sustainable electricity.

He likened the breakthrough to when humans first learned that refining oil into gasoline and igniting it could produce an explosion.

AD

From Page 1

ant governor-elect David M. Apatang. The new administration will be sworn in on Jan. 9, 2023. Palacios and Apatang have reportedly chosen the front of the multi-purpose center as the inauguration site, which is in the center of the island and populated areas.

In a news briefing at the transition and inauguration committees' headquarters in Susupe Monday, Oscar Babauta, who is vice chairman of the Inauguration Subcommittee, said they will finalize the invitations later that day, Monday, and approve the format. The invitations are for dignitaries from off-island and other countries.

Claudio K. Norita, who is vice chairman of the Transition Subcommittee, stated at the press briefing that because of time constraint, the use of technology is easier by sending first the electronic copy of the invitation to off-island dignitaries, to be followed by the document invitation.

"At least it gives them time to receive the electronic copy, [so they can] make appropriate travel arrangements and so forth," he said.

Norita also stated that the outgoing governor traditionally designates a special assistant to the administration, who will be working with the transition committee's overall chairman on all transition and inauguration issues until Jan. 9.

Norita said they have already met with the transition team leaders and answered their questions on how to do a report as part of efforts to ensure that their people in both the transition and inauguration teams hit the ground running.

"So we've done all of that. All the background checking and we've issued ID cards for them," he said.

Norita said if the Commonwealth Election Commission board is done the certification of the gubernatorial runoff election results by 3:30pm today, then they will start working at 3:31pm.

He said the people on the transition teams are ready to go and will start reaching out to the department heads to initiate first contact after the CEC board's certification is done.

The CEC board has yet to certify the runoff election results due to some challenged absentee votes. The board, however, is expected to certify the results tomorrow, Thursday.

Juan S. "Lilling" Reyes, who is the overall chairman of the transition and inauguration committees, said they only want a smooth transition of government.

Reyes said he believes it is going to happen because Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is cooperating and talking with Palacios.

"So I don't see any problem," he said.

VFW

From Page 1

essay for the fourth year in a row, while Serin Chung won second place, and Irin Chung won third place.

Moshe Sikkel won first place in the Patriot's Pen youth essay contest, Audry Paige White won second place, and Phoenix Sapphire Gross won third place.

First place for both contests received a $275 cash award along with a medal and a certificate, while second place received $190, a medal, and a certificate, and third place won $85, a medal, and a certificate as well.

Sablan, a 16-year-old senior at SIS, described his repeated victories as a "great opportunity."

"I would like to thank Ms. [Kimberlee] Church for introducing VFW to me. She's actually the one that got me started. I just think that this competition is very competitive and very diverse, however, I'm very grateful and proud that I've won for all of my four years of [joining] and I'm very excited."

Sablan is a speech and debate participant in school and became interested in the VFW competition. "I started writing and then I submitted it. I found out that I got first place and so in the following years just getting that first [place] really encouraged me to continue," he added.

Sikkel, a 13-year-old 8th grade student at SIS, was not present due to being in soccer practice, so his mother, Thu Tran, received his awards for him. She said of her son winning the award, "I think it's great that Ms. [Kimberlee] Church is asking them to participate and asking them to write. I think it's a great experience for them to be a part of it and just to practice on their essay writing skills. And for Moshe to win is just the cherry on top."

Robert DeRocher, commander of the VFW Post 3457, who announced the winners, said that everybody who competed "turned in exemplary work. Everyone who turns something in should be very proud. It was a very tough decision for the judges. It was a tough competition."

According to the VFW website, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students across the nation "the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay."

VFW said that nearly 65,000 high schoolers in the U.S. submit their essays every year in hopes of earning their share of over $2 million in scholarship funds and other incentives awarded through the program. This year's VOD theme was, "Why is the veteran Important?"

The Patriot's Pen youth essay contest is another contest hosted by VFW posts for sixth to eighth-grade students nationwide. Around 165,000 middle schoolers submit their essays in hopes of earning their share of more than $1.4 million in state and national awards. This year, students had to write a 400- to 500-word essay on the theme, "My Pledge to Veterans."

DEATH

From Page 1

threats that were sent out via email blasts directed toward local entities like the Public School System.

The name on the email account used to send the threatening emails was Yu Qiu Min, a wanted fugitive believed to have ties with Ye Fang, better known as "Batu," another wanted fugitive who was the subject of graphic videos that have been circulating on the internet since last weekend.

However, DPS has yet to confirm whether the email was really sent out by Yu, or if it was sent out by another individual using the fugitive's name.

"On Monday, Dec. 12, at about 10:19pm, the Department of Public Safety received several disturbance reports indicating death threats at certain establishments, with attached videos of the recently circulating videos through social media. The email was sent to a mass account inclusive of several students and staff of the Public School System, from an account utilizing the name of a wanted fugitive," said Pangelinan.

DPS assures the community that there is no direct threat to students.

"There is no direct threat to students or schools. DPS is actively investigating the threat made against these establishments. Authorities are asking the public to be vigilant when receiving and forwarding videos and messages through social media and to contact DPS directly to report any suspicious activity," he said.

DPS is seeking the community's help in identifying the person(s) behind the threats that have been sent out.

"Anyone with information regarding the person(s) involved in sending out any threats through social media is encouraged to call the Criminal Investigations Division at 664-9042, 911, or the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest," he said.

DPS is still on the lookout for both Yu and "Batu."

"Batu" is currently facing charges of theft and trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance. His bail was set at $100,000. Meanwhile, Yu is facing one charge of theft with her bail set at $10,000.

Over the weekend, the month-old mugshots of the wanted fugitives went viral in the CNMI community, along with videos of firearms and other graphic, violent videos. According to the captions of these posts, Batu, who remains at large, was allegedly threatening the community with a shootout.

However, DPS has since discredited the rumors, stating that the videos were shot over two years ago and were never directed at the community.

Happy Holidays

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Childcare providers learn to manage 'challenging' behavior in kids…

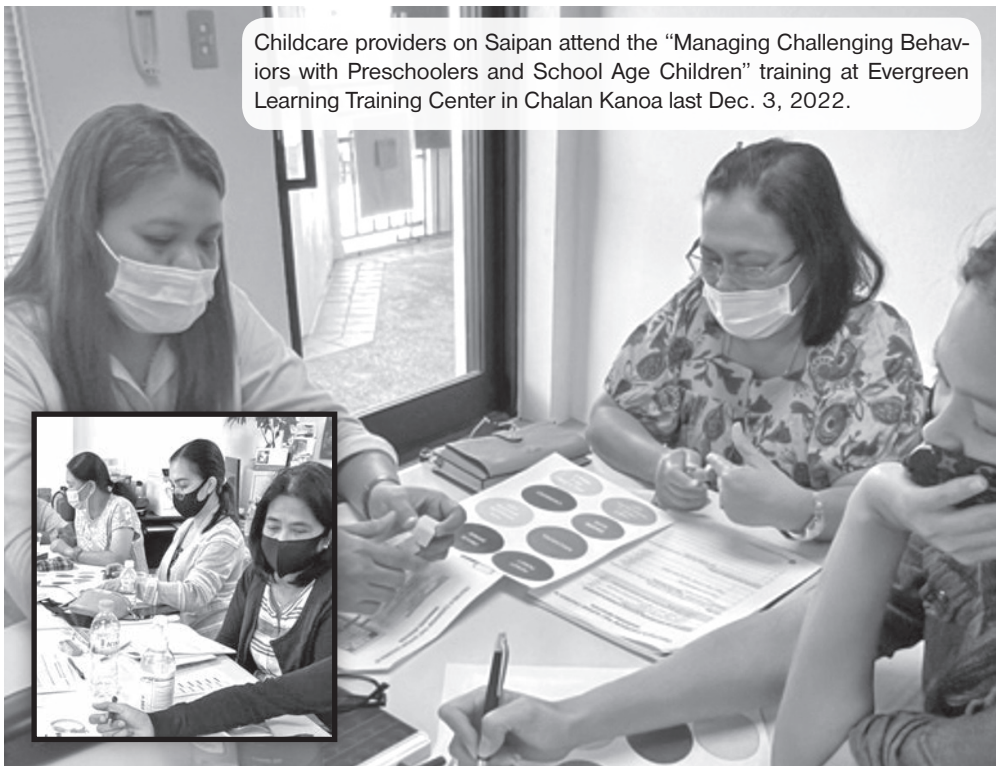
A total of 17 childcare providers on Saipan attended last Dec. 3, 2022, a training on managing "challenging" behaviors among preschoolers and school-age children that, among others, minimize conflict.

The training, held at the Evergreen Learning Training Center in Chalan Kanoa, was facilitated by Evergreen Learning coach Erlaine Evangelista, who explained that "challenging behaviors" are defined as behaviors that interfere with learning and engagement in prosocial interaction.

Through this training, attendees learned ways to set up their childcare environment to minimize conflict between children and discovered the importance of schedules and routines so children know what to expect. Participants also learned how to structure transitions and visual cue systems to help children learn how to self-regulate. They explored simple and short rules for expectations in their classrooms and learned how to praise children's efforts.

Childcare providers also engaged in a "Brain Break" activity by participating in a movement dance demo halfway through the training. This activity served both as a demonstration to teachers of what can be done during long group activities in their childcare centers and to prompt self-reflection on their own experience. The activity helped providers see how the brain break re-energized them to focus better for the next half of the training.

This training was made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, CNMI CCDF Program, under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. ***(PR)***



Childcare providers on Saipan attend the "Managing Challenging Behaviors with Preschoolers and School Age Children" training at Evergreen Learning Training Center in Chalan Kanoa last Dec. 3, 2022.

. . . and attend active supervision and maintaining ratios training

A total of 19 childcare providers on Saipan attended the "Active Supervision and Maintaining Ratios" training facilitated by Evergreen Learning coach Erlaine Evangelista at the Evergreen Learning Training Center in Chalan Kanoa last Dec. 3, 2022.

It was learned at the training that "active supervision" goes beyond basic supervision. The technique includes six different strategies: 1. Set up the environment, 2. Position of staff, 3. Scan and count, 4. Listen, 5. Anticipate children's behavior, and 6. Engage and redirect. In addition, the training emphasized ratios—the number of adults who are present to teach and care for children in a childcare center. Child to adult ratios for the CNMI varies, depending on the age of the youngest child in the group.

During this two-hour-long training, participants engaged in a variety of activities to better understand quality practices related to active supervision and maintaining ratios. Attendees engaged in group discussions related to their experiences, viewed short video clips, and identified possible strategies for active supervision along with lapses within the shared video clips. Participants also reviewed a scenario and identified which strategies were used to help implement active supervision.

This training was made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, CNMI CCDF Program, under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Multi-purpose center unavailable until after Jan. 9, 2023

The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe will not be available to reserve for use from now until after Jan. 9, 2023, in preparation for the incoming administration. ***(PR)***

Deadline for filing LEIP2

The Division of Revenue and Taxation would like to advise the public that the last day to file a return for the purpose of the Second Local Economic Impact Payment will be on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, in order to allow for processing time before the deadline.

DRT reminds taxpayers that cards must be issued, and funds used by the deadline of Dec. 31, 2022.

If you have been advised that your card was mailed to you but have not yet received your card within a reasonable time, call DRT as your stimulus card may have been returned to our office. A valid photo I.D. and Social Security card is required to release the card to the authorized cardholder.

Should you have any questions, contact our office at 664-1040. ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars this month**.**

Webinars are held every Wednesday from 10am to 11:30am via Zoom. Zoom links are emailed to all registered attendees 30 minutes before the webinar.

■ **Dec. 14, 2022 – Federal Contract Opportunities –** *SAM.gov is the portal for federal contract opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to use the website to ensure you do not miss any opportunities. Opportunity types, search filters, and search strategies will be discussed.*

■ **Dec. 21, 2022 – Cybersecurity: Federal Contractor Responsibilities –** *Department of Defense vendors need to protect Covered Unclassified Information. We will discuss DOD's current requirements as well as the upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification.*

■ **Dec. 28, 2022 – Government of Guam Procurement –** *The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam pocurement laws and regulations, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.*

To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php ***(PTAC)***

Notice to all weightlifters

All weightlifters and persons interested in weightlifting are informed that the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament will be held on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

There is no entry fee for members of CNMI Weightlifting but non-members will have to pay $20. Entry forms may be obtained from CNMI Weightlifting secretary Jeanne Rayphand at the NMPASI Office, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Entries must be received by CNMI Weightlifting on or before Dec. 31, 2022.

For more information, call Rayphand at (670) 287-9807 or (670) 235-7273. ***(PR)***

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES (NON-RESTRICTED AREAS)
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for grounds maintenance services of the Tinian International Airport on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning December 02, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services (Non-Restricted Areas) of the Tinian International Airport, Project No-CPA-RFP-003-23". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, December 19, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference on December 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the CPA Conference Room of the Tinian International Airport. Site Visit will be conducted shortly after the meeting. Only those proposers who attended this meeting will be allowed to submit their proposals.

Written questions and/or clarifications regarding this project will be entertained up till December 13, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding this project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA, CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES (NON-RESTRICTED AREAS)
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for grounds maintenance services of the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Rota International Airport on the Island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning December 02, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services (Non-Restricted Areas) of the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Rota International Airport, Project No-CPA-RFP-004-23". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, December 19, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference on December 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the BTM Rota International Airport. Site Visit will be conducted shortly after the meeting. Only those proposers who attended this meeting will be allowed to submit their proposals.

Written questions and/or clarifications regarding this project will be entertained up till December 14, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding this project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA, CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

PSS' Ada's help sought in the transition, inaugural committees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Juan S. Reyes, the executive chairman of the transition and inauguration committees for the Office of Governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov.-elect David M. Apatang, has requested assistance from the Public School System in authorizing the temporary assignment of PSS personnel to help in the transition and inaugural committees.

Reyes wrote Education Commission Dr. Alfred B. Ada last Friday, requesting such assistance and attached a list of PSS personnel that are immediately needed within this week to commence the initial contact for the

Reyes

transition and the planning efforts for the inauguration committees.

He said as the days get closer for the Inauguration Day of Jan. 9, 2023, additional personnel will be needed to assist in the implementation and operation to ensure that the inaugural festivities are a success.

Reyes asked for Ada's full cooperation as their transition team activities begin.

Governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and lieutenant goivernor-elect David M. Apatang, of the unified independent team, won in the gubernatorial runoff race by a commanding lead based on the Commonwealth Election Commission's unofficial tabulation results.

GCA students, staff to serenade Hyatt guests this Friday

» Christmas performances every Friday at the Hyatt

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy students and some staff will be performing at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Dec. 16, 2022. Hyatt host Christmas performances every Friday to help spread the Yuletide cheer to guests and members of the community.

It is the third Friday of the month of December and on deck at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Dec. 16, 2022, will be the students and staff of Grace Christian Academy starting at 5:30pm. Hyatt host Christmas performances every Friday to help spread the Yuletide cheer to guests and members of the community.

According to GCA vice principal Susan Pajarillaga, both students and staff have been practicing and are excited to perform. "The participating students are from 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th grades. The students perform during Christmas programs in our school but this is the first time that they have been invited to sing in a hotel and public. They are set to sing two songs on Friday," she said.

The GCA staff are equally excited about this opportunity to show their talents, Pajarilla added. "The staff, which is composed of adults, wanted to participate as well and will perform at least four songs. We will be singing acapella but the audience will also hear ukelele and guitar playing."

GCA was established in 1986 by Rev. Raymond Kinsella. GCA strive to develop the whole child through strong Christian education formed by biblical principles, and nurture a love for God and humanity. Their program puts an emphasis on academic excellence through proven teaching methods and a constant search for improvement.

Christmas performances at the Hyatt happens every week and started on Dec. 2 with students from Saipan International School. The second Friday, Dec. 9, was with the Marianas High School Glee Club known as Rhythm 'N Harmony.

Everyone is invited as this is open to the public. For more information, call (670) 234-1234. Hyatt Regency Saipan is the first international hotel in the CNMI and is celebrating its 42nd anniversary in the CNMI. ***(Hyatt Regency Saipan)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-23-003

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MEDIUM-DUTY BOOM TRUCK VEHICLE

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of a medium-duty boom truck for the Power Plant in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-23-003, Supply and Delivery of a Medium Duty Boom Truck"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 19, 2022,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Jubal Slayer, CUC's Technical Manager for Oil via email at jubal.slayer@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-23-005

Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (ASADRA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ASADRA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **December 6, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-002, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 20, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 8, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

America revels in Brittney Griner's return. Now Biden must do the same for Paul Whelan and Marc Fogel

The people who become Vladimir Putin's pawns never realize the vicious game ensnaring them.

Until it's too late.

WNBA star Brittney Griner made the mistake of carrying in her luggage vape cartridges with a minuscule amount of cannabis oil as she traveled to Russia to play basketball in February. Nine months later, Griner found herself in a penal colony outside Moscow on a drug possession conviction that hardly warranted the nine-year sentence she began serving.

On Thursday, Griner's unimaginable ordeal came to an end. A prisoner swap negotiated between the Kremlin and President Joe Biden sent Griner on her way home in exchange for Viktor Bout, the Russian arms dealer known to the world as the "Merchant of Death."

Griner's reunification with her wife, Cherelle Griner, her family and teammates on the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury squad will surely be celebrated across America. At the same time, Americans should also celebrate Griner's steely courage—she was up against a Russian leader with a notorious disdain for the rule of law, who is obsessed with what transactional gain he can extract from the plight of others.

Not involved in the swap was former U.S. Marine Paul Whelan, a corporate security executive arrested in Moscow in 2018 on espionage charges that the U.S. says were concocted by Russian authorities. Whelan was convicted in 2020 and remains imprisoned in Russia on a 16-year sentence.

What Putin wants in exchange for Whelan remains unknown, but we trust Biden is working on his release just as earnestly and expeditiously as his administration toiled to secure Griner's freedom. The Kremlin rejected Washington's bid to include Whelan in the Griner-Bout swap; Moscow preferred a one-for-one exchange, as it did in April when it agreed to release former U.S. Marine Trevor Reed in order to secure the homecoming of Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko.

It's an ugly game Putin plays, turning ordinary people into hostages he can stow away like poker chips. The price for Griner was steep. Washington has alleged that Bout's arms clients have included al-Qaida and the Taliban. Bout was convicted in 2011 in New York on charges that included conspiring to kill American citizens and sentenced to 25 years in prison, a term he was serving in a federal prison in Marion, Illinois, until his release Thursday. The U.S. has long suspected that Bout also had ties to Russia's feared military intelligence

See AMERICA on Next Page

How tariffs are raising the cost of Christmas presents and more

By **BRUCE YANDLE**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This time of year, most inflation-weary Christmas shoppers—and perhaps even the inflation-fighting Fed—would welcome an end to our government's effort to raise the prices of the goods we buy in high volume. In this year's third quarter, the federal government collected tariffs on imported goods putting us on track for $104 billion. The import duties are being added to lots of items on our shopping lists, running up the prices of clothes, toys, electronics, and even the solar panels needed to shift America from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The latter are at the heart of a controversy showing, unfortunately, why we shouldn't expect relief any time soon.

Since 2016, under Republican and Democrat leadership, trade wars have become a governing habit. To add perspective, at the current pace, total retail sales will hit more than $7.3 trillion in 2022. The tariffs equal roughly 1.4 percent of that. That's a pretty healthy dose of inflation.

> Protectionism can feel pretty good when you are a U.S.-based solar cell start-up getting a boost. But it doesn't feel so good when, as a U.S. power generator, you must now pay for more-expensive domestic solar cells...

Not only that, but in recent years, tariff tax revenues paid mostly by Americans have accelerated sharply. They have climbed from $38.5 billion in 2017, during the Trump administration when the United States began hiking tariffs on China and friendlier countries like Canada and France, to roughly $53.3 billion in 2018, $77.7 billion in 2019, and on to $89.1 billion in 2021.

Donald Trump famously saw himself as gatekeeper to the U.S. economy and happily referred to himself as a "tariff man"—but President Joe Biden has quietly maintained the same stance. Although interrupted by the 2020 pandemic recession, tariff revenues have until quite recently continued to accelerate.

Figuratively speaking, for six years, our government has put rocks in our harbors to keep out foreign-made goods. Now, the tariffs are taking a small bite out of Christmas. Scrooge would be proud. In each instance, the rocks were said to improve the well-being of some Americans or industries, sometimes supplemented by patriotic or even environmental appeals, but at the expense of a lot of other Americans.

While we call the practice "protectionism," the industries and groups gaining protection are numerically few, highly organized, and politically active. Those picking up the tab are much larger in number, diverse, and less organized, and so most of them—like you and I—quietly pay the cost through higher prices or other means. Put another way, the politics of the matter favor those who know how to play the game.

Protectionism can feel pretty good when you are a U.S.-based solar cell start-up getting a boost. But it doesn't feel so good when, as a U.S. power generator, you must now pay for more-expensive domestic solar cells and can't even find enough components to complete a major project.

This gets us to the current controversy, which has its roots in 2018, when Trump imposed tariffs on solar cells produced in and shipped from China. The move was initially embraced by the Biden team, and then temporarily relaxed when U.S. solar installers begged for more supply and as we awaited a government investigation into alleged Chinese maneuvering around the tariffs.

In December, following months of investigation and now in the midst of holiday shopping, the Department of Commerce concluded that Chinese firms rearranged their production so that products could be finalized in Southeast Asia, the source of 80% of U.S. solar cell imports. Putting aside China's apparent disregard for the spirit of the law, what was the result? U.S. consumers have enjoyed lower-cost solar panels, at least when they could get them. Meanwhile, planet Earth may have become a wee bit less troubled by climate change.

One might think such an outcome would be celebrated by progressives and pro-market politicians alike. But that's not the world we live in. Instead, unless intervention occurs, the findings will lead to punitive tariffs and more restrictions on the importation of solar cells, an action now opposed by U.S. industries begging for relief so that they can satisfy consumer demand for more solar power.

Wouldn't it be better just to let Americans buy what they need, whether they're shopping for loved ones or figuring out how to light all those Christmas trees?

Bruce Yandle is a distinguished adjunct fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, dean emeritus of the Clemson College of Business, and a former executive director of the Federal Trade Commission.

Are you worried about another American civil war? It's not imminent, but...

By NICHOLAS GOLDBERG
Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

I don't believe the United States is on the verge of civil war.

I don't believe it even though a substantial portion of Americans support political violence and despite chilling examples ranging from the scheme to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol to the brutal beating of Paul Pelosi to the increase in armed right-wing activity.

I don't believe it despite warnings from experts that it's coming.

"America is rushing headlong into another civil war, and it's a matter of when, not if," Christopher Sebastian Parker, a UC Santa Barbara political science professor, told the Guardian in an article last month titled "How close is the U.S. to civil war?"

Stephen Marche, author of "The Next Civil War: Dispatches from the American Future," said: "The United States is a textbook example of a country headed for civil war." Conditions, he said are "ripe for political violence."

"They are preparing for war," said Barbara Walter, a political science professor at UC San Diego, to the Washington Post. "And not talking about it doesn't make us safer."

And I don't believe it even though those dire prophecies are buttressed, to some extent, by public opinion.

For instance, a solid minority of Americans—in the 20% range—say violence can be justified to "advance an important political objective." Furthermore, according to the Pew Research Center, Americans see their political opponents as more "close-minded, dishonest, immoral and unintelligent" than other Americans. Nearly 9 out of 10 voters expressed concern to pollsters last month about the increased risk of politically motivated violence.

Despite all that, I think this country has a ways to go before we take to our bunkers. Call me a starry-eyed optimist (or a self-delusional fool), but I believe that most Americans still share a fundamental respect for rules, laws and institutions, a respect built over 200-plus years of history. The vast majority of Americans are not on the violent fringes but buy into the basic expectations and benefits of democratic society.

I don't believe you topple that with one bum presidency or a handful of divisive Supreme Court decisions or some horn-hatted, flag-wielding vigilantes storming the Capitol, or even with sporadic right-wing extremist violence. Will there be conflict and more violent incidents ahead? Yes, probably. Sustained warfare or guerrilla insurrection? Not right now.

But here's where I switch arguments a bit. Because I also believe—as a person whose family was forced to upend its stable, settled existence when Hitler came to power—that this is no time for complacency, either.

I've seen signs of upheaval in this country in the last seven years that I couldn't have imagined just a few years earlier. Two presidential impeachments within 13 months—the same number there were in the previous 230 years. Two-thirds of Republicans convinced President Biden was not fairly elected. Twitter mentions of "civil war" up by nearly 3,000% after the FBI search of Mar-a-Lago in August. Hate crimes increasing around the country.

If I were to worry, if I were to wake up at night in a sweat fearing for my country, here's one thing I would definitely focus on: Our political system no longer seems to work. Government is stymied, paralyzed and rancorous.

Even when one party wins a majority it accomplishes little. The filibuster is an immense obstacle to legislative action in the Senate, allowing little to get done except through gimmickry and procedural machinations. The hurdles to amending the Constitution are virtually insurmountable; some experts believe it will never happen again.

The governing process as it's now practiced doesn't encourage deliberation, compromise or the common good at all; instead, it rewards scorched-earth conflict with your enemies. Winning matters; governing not so much.

For voters, this creates intense frustration that threatens to boil over. If working within the system doesn't improve things, voters will eventually reject the system. If elections yield no meaningful benefits, Americans will lose faith in voting. If they feel misled, mistreated and undervalued by Washington, they will become angry and disenchanted, lose faith in institutions, and turn elsewhere for solutions, including to demagogues.

Consider abortion, although it's just one of example of many. Thanks to the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the United States no longer recognizes a constitutional right to abortion, even though more than 60% of Americans believes the process should be legal in most or all cases.

So, OK, fine; in a healthy political system, Congress would now pass a law codifying abortion rights nationally, in line with the desire of most Americans. But the legislative branch is broken and can't respond. Despite popular support, the proposed bill lacks the votes to overcome the 60-vote filibuster requirement in the Senate.

The left and right both feel the frustration. According to Pew, only 8% of Americans see government as very or extremely responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens. Dissatisfaction with Washington is one of the few things on which Republicans and Democrats agree.

In our system today, incumbents are virtually unbeatable; money corrupts elections; political parties gerrymander voting district lines for unfair advantage. The candidate with the most votes doesn't necessarily become president. States of fewer than a million residents have the same representation in the Senate as those with tens of millions of people.

And it's not clear what can be done about it.

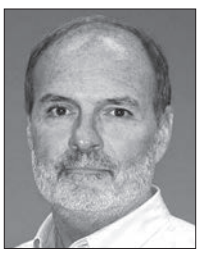
In the years ahead, the U.S. could calm down and revert to the old status quo, or perhaps the Cassandras are right and we'll face a literal civil war or a sustained guerrilla insurrection or a "cold" civil war characterized, as some have speculated, by partisanship, mistrust and paralysis.

If we hope to avoid those latter outcomes, government needs to become responsive to the needs of the voters.

Who gets to decide when and how we die?

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.



Would it surprise you to learn that more than 10,000 Canadians were put to death by their doctors last year?

A number of countries—and a few American states—permit some form of assisted suicide for terminally ill patients, but Canada is one of only a handful that have legalized euthanasia. Medical practitioners are permitted to use drugs to end the lives of patients who are suffering, even those who are not immediately terminal.

Earlier this month, New York Times columnist Ross Douthat described the situation north of our border in "What Euthanasia Has Done to Canada." Douthat, a political conservative and committed Catholic, is emphatic: he calls euthanasia barbaric, evil and destructive, a way station on the road to a "dystopian future" that has already arrived in Canada.

He concludes that only conservatives can save us from this dreadful brave new world.

Douthat is worth reading on this subject, and so is Maria Cheng of the Associated Press—cited by Douthat—who reports on the misgivings of bioethicists about Canada's liberal attitude toward euthanasia. Will health care professionals be tempted to too quickly offer euthanasia as a "cure" for patients who are experiencing only temporary depression? Will patients be motivated to seek euthanasia merely to escape physical suffering that could be relieved by better palliative care?

Euthanasia is complex beyond the scope of this column, but its essential question deserves attention: Who has the right to decide when and how we die?

Generally church and state have claimed this prerogative. Suicide is against the law, and it violates the spirit and the tenets of most religions. But does it have to be this way? The privileges of the church and the state to dictate the conditions of our deaths conflict with another individual imperative, the fundamental desire of most humans to achieve a reasonably peaceful and dignified demise.

In fact, many of us are much less afraid of death than we are of dying. We crave a tranquil passage into the Great Beyond, but in reality peaceful departures are rare. More often death is a miserable, prolonged experience largely devoid of dignity or grace.

Modern drugs and palliative care can help relieve a good deal of the suffering until nature takes its course, but many terminal patients—and we're all terminal, aren't we?—fear suffering less than incapacitation, the prolonged weeks, months or years during which their ability to function fully as a human being is over.

In fact, the Canadian Minister of Health's recent annual report notes that among the reasons cited by patients who chose euthanasia, only 58% mentioned "inadequate control of pain." Eighty-six percent said they prefer to die because of the "loss of ability to engage in meaningful activities."

In other words, the inability to lead a meaningful existence is, for many, a fate worse than death.

The idea that any life is better than no life at all is largely unexamined and unchallenged, especially by the young and healthy. Douthat incorporates the principle into his conservatism, as if Republicans don't fear dying as much as Democrats. The religious often accept the principle, as well, deferring to their perception of the will of God, even if it means enduring prolonged suffering.

But isn't the principle itself—life at all costs—due for a reevaluation that pays more attention to the wishes of the individual? Wouldn't more control of the time, place and circumstances of our deaths alleviate some of our fear of dying, if not of death itself?

In Canada, medical assistance in dying goes by the acronym MAID. Here's how one medical practitioner reported the death of one of her patients:

"Patient with cancer was offered palliative care right away, but requested MAID shortly after admission to hospice. He wanted to be pain free and sedated, and to have MAID on his birthday … Family members at the bedside respected the patient's wishes and the MAID went very well. In the presence of his wife and two children, the patient passed away on his birthday, as he wished."

Whatever you think of this patient's choice, the important term here is "as he wished."

AMERICA

From Page 8

agency, the GRU, which might explain the Kremlin's fervent desire to return him to Russian soil.

Biden had no choice but to make the deal. The future Griner faced in Russia was harrowing.

Biden deserves credit for Griner's homecoming. In the meantime, however, the White House cannot waver in its mission to do the same for Whelan, who on Thursday told CNN via telephone, "I don't know why I'm still here."

The Biden administration should also take a closer look at the case of Marc Fogel, a Pennsylvania teacher whose case mirrors Griner's. Earlier this year, a Russian court sentenced him to 14 years in prison after he was caught at a Moscow airport with medical marijuana in his luggage.

We expect Putin to reprehensibly treat Whelan, Fogel and any other American detained in Russia the same way he treated Griner—as a commodity, a bargaining chip.

Biden must do all he can to rescue Whelan and Fogel from Putin's inhumanity.

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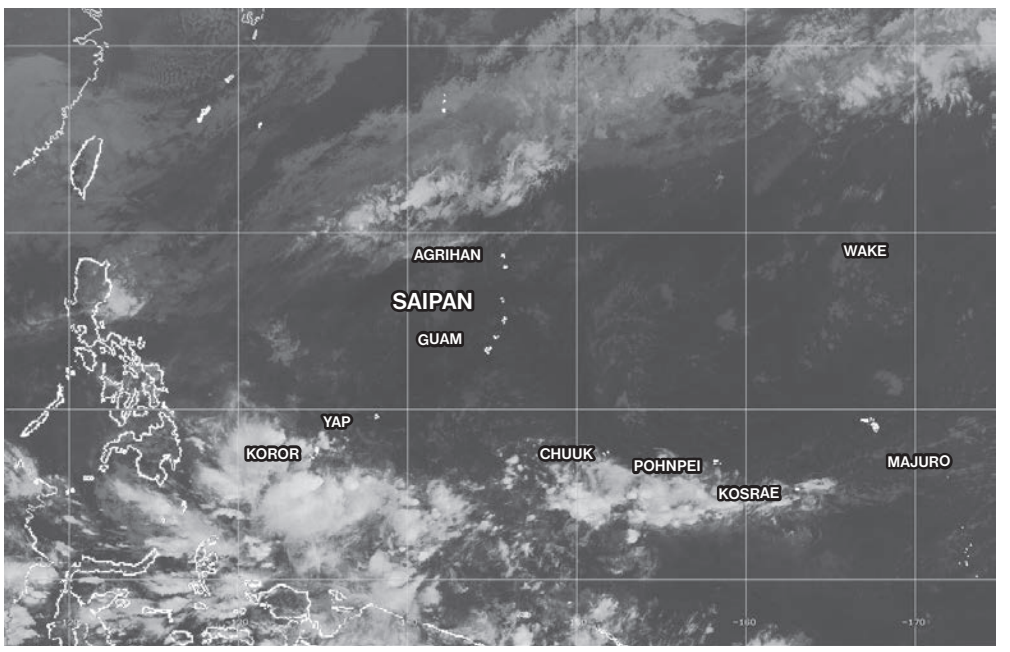
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
88º 77º	88º 76º	83º 77º	88º 79º	88º 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies with isolated showers out past 153E longitude, or almost 500 miles east of the Marianas. Fair weather is on tap for at least the next day, maybe two. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	68° / 64°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	32° / 16°
Hong Kong	Showers	56° / 54°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 71°
London	Cloudy	36° / 26°
Los Angeles	Sunny	59° / 40°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	58° / 51°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78° / 71°
New York	Sunny	41° / 29°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	49° / 37°
Paris	Snow Showers	34° / 31°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	40° / 27°
Rome	Rain	60° / 48°
Salem	Cloudy	58° / 50°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	54° / 38°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	26° / 15°
Tokyo	Sunny	56° / 35°
Washington, DC	Sunny	44° / 24°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:03 AM	10:26 PM
Thursday	-	11:48 AM	11:18 PM
Friday	-	12:30 PM	-
Saturday	12:08 AM	1:09 PM	-
Sunday	12:58 AM	1:46 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:17 AM	Low Tide	-0.19
1:00 PM	High Tide	1.57
6:45 PM	Low Tide	1.09
10:26 PM	High Tide	1.29

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Chow Time opens new and bigger location

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Chow Time is moving to a larger place, which is a mere stone's throw away from their current location inside the 99 Cents Store in Garapan.

Owner Anna Liza Alcantara said the old takeout snack bar is expanding to become a full-fledged restaurant by taking over the old digs of the Virralicci parlor.

So, from a location that could barely seat six, the new and improved Chow Time can now comfortably accommodate 50 customers.

Alcantara, however, clarified that the new Chow Time, for the meantime, is available only for large catering events like birthdays, christenings, weddings, graduations, promotions, or any special celebrations.

"For now, the new location is open to host parties as we can't open it as a restaurant yet because it's the busy season for catering with the holiday season and all."

She said though that Chow Time will start welcoming its loyal customers and new ones starting next month when they finally move in.

MARK RABAGO
Chow Time owner Anna Liza Alcantara joins Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Father Rey Rosal, friends, and staff during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Chow Time's new location at the old Virralicci parlor in Garapan.

MARK RABAGO
Guests were treated to a smorgasbord of Chow Time's all-time favorites.

MARK RABAGO
Father Rey Rosal conducts a blessing of the new Chow Time location.

Aside from their usual best-sellers like tokwa't baboy, sinigang, kaldereta, beef stew, chicken curry, and the ever affordable $3 breakfast meals, Chow Time can now prepare new dishes.

Among them are combo plates like beef, seafood, and chicken with vegetable, rice, and soup that all typically start at $13.

Alcantara is also excited with their $5 beef pares with unlimited soup with fried rice. Papaitan will also be an everyday fare at the new Chow Time.

Sizzling squid, which they only sold at Sabalu Market, will also now be part of the menu. Ditto for sizzling plates, which they used to serve at Chow Time 2.

Also part of the expanded menu is sizzling balut and everyone's favorite—pork and chicken barbecue skewers.

The genesis of Chow Time came about when Alcantara, then a customer service agent at Pacific Oriental Inc. Aviation, and her coworkers used to pine for food during their shift in the wee hours of the morning.

That's when she realized this could be a business opportunity and Chow Time was born.

Aside from satisfying her coworkers' hunger at the airport, Alacantara soon started delivering at Century Insurance and *Saipan Tribune* in 2015

Before coming to Saipan, Alcantara shared that her family wasn't well off in the Philippines. In fact, her children hardly had enough food to eat.

"Sometimes my kids would come home hungry and ask what food was there. I'd say adobo, which is our codename for rice with soy sauce; or shrimp, which is our codename for rice and Oishi (Filipino prawn crackers)," she said.

Alcantara also isn't ashamed to say that she used to hitchhike when she was selling her food and that's why she doesn't hesitate to offer rides to strangers herself on her now fully paid SUV.

Alcantara hosted friends and staff that helped her grow the business during the soft opening and blessing of the new Chow Time last Thursday. Guests included Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Father Rey Rosal.

More than 60 guests had their fill of Chow Time's all-time favorites like fried chicken, sisig, chopsuey, palabok, mechado, lechon, and the aforementioned papaitan and beef pares, among others.

Alcantara specifically thanked her AKAP family, lawyer Steve Pixley and her executive secretary Susan Espanillo, Celso Agui, U.S. Passport Office's Maggie Naputi, Cristy Villaflor, her daughter's soccer coach, and her beloved staff, which she largely attributes Chow Time's success to.

For more information on Chow Time and their wide selection of food for catering, call (670) 233-8463, (670) 989-4247, or go to their Facebook page.

Former FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried is arrested in the Bahamas

NEW YORK (AP)—The former CEO of failed cryptocurrency firm FTX, Sam Bankman-Fried, has been arrested in the Bahamas at the request of the U.S. government, U.S. and Bahamian authorities said Monday.

The arrest was made Monday after the U.S. filed criminal charges that are expected to be unsealed Tuesday, according to U.S. Attorney Damian Williams. Bankman-Fried had been under criminal investigation by U.S. and Bahamian authorities following the collapse last month of FTX. The firm filed for bankruptcy on Nov. 11, when it ran out of money after the cryptocurrency equivalent of a bank run.

"We expect to move to unseal the indictment in the morning and will have more to say at that time," Williams said.

Bahamian Attorney General Ryan Pinder said the Bahamas would "promptly" extradite Bankman-Fried to the U.S. once the indictment is unsealed and U.S. authorities make a formal request. FTX is headquartered in the Bahamas and Bankman-Fried has largely remained in his Bahamian luxury compound in Nassau since the company's failure.

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PUSHADEVI M. HEMLANI, Plaintiff,
-v-
JAMES D. CABRERA, FEIAN CHEN, and WENJUE YIN, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0198-CV

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/
Clerk of Court
Dated, this 31st day of August, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB NO.: 42200016

SUBMISSION DATE: December 22, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of the Secretary of Finance Office Building Number 1302, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **November 28, 2022** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 13, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center **Office**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on December **19, 2022** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Nation

US BLIZZARD
expected to impact millions in Rockies, Midwest

AP

California Highway Patrol officer Mike Eshleman instructs a driver he may continue on Highway 2 in his 4-wheel drive vehicle as heavy snow falls near Wrightwood, Calif., on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—A massive winter storm blew toward the center of the U.S. on Monday, threatening millions of people with heavy snow, freezing rain and flooding.

The National Weather Service warned that there would be "numerous, widespread, and impactful weather hazards in the heart of the country this week." Across the Rockies and into the northern Plains and parts of the Midwest, people were warned to prepare for blizzard-like conditions. Those farther south in Texas and Louisiana could get heavy rains with flash flooding, hail and tornadoes by Tuesday. The storm will continue southeast into Florida later in the week, forecasters said.

"It will be a busy week while this system moves across the country," said Marc Chenard, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service's headquarters in College Park, Maryland.

Officials in western South Dakota told residents to brace for 6 inches (15 centimeters) or more of snow: "Get your shovels handy, get your groceries, and check other needed supplies. The roads will be hard to travel."

A swath of country stretching from Montana into western Nebraska and Colorado was under blizzard warnings Monday, and the National Weather Service said that as much as 2 feet (61 centimeters) of snow was possible in some areas of western South Dakota and northwestern Nebraska. Meanwhile, ice and sleet were expected in the eastern Great Plains.

National Weather Service warned that up to about half an inch (2.5 centimeters) of ice could form and winds could gust up to 45 miles per hour (72 kilometers per hour) in parts of Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. Power outages, tree damage, falling branches and hazardous travel conditions all threatened the region.

"This is a 'we are not kidding' kind of storm," the South Dakota Department of Public Safety said in a tweet urging people to stock up on essentials, then stay home once the storm hits.

Thousands of students from Native American communities across Wyoming, Nebraska and the Dakotas were traveling to Rapid City, South Dakota, for this week's Lakota Nation Invitational, a high school athletic event. Brian Brewer, one of the organizers, said he had urged schools and participants to travel early.

"We told them with this storm coming — if you leave tomorrow, there's a good chance you might not make it," he said Monday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Breonna Taylor's boyfriend settles lawsuits over shooting

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The boyfriend of Breonna Taylor who fired a shot at police as they burst through Taylor's door the night she was killed has settled two lawsuits against the city of Louisville, his attorneys said Monday.

The city agreed to pay $2 million to settle lawsuits filed by Kenneth Walker in federal and state court, one of his attorneys, Steve Romines, said in a statement. He added that Taylor's death "will haunt Kenny for the rest of his life."

"He will live with the effects of being put in harm's way due to a falsified warrant, to being a victim of a hailstorm of gunfire and to suffering the unimaginable and horrific death of Breonna Taylor," Romines said.

Walker and Taylor were settled in bed for the night when they were roused by banging on her apartment door around midnight on March 13, 2020. Police were outside with a drug warrant, and they used a battering ram to knock down the door. Walker fired a single shot from a handgun, striking Sgt. John Mattingly in the leg. Mattingly and two other officers then opened fire, killing Taylor.

The case highlighted the issue of "no-knock" warrants — which allow law enforcement agents to enter a home without announcing their presence - and led to a reexamination of the practice.

Student shot and wounded outside Oregon high school building

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A student at a high school in Portland, Oregon, was shot and wounded Monday outside a school building, resulting in a lockdown, police said.

The 16-year-old student walked into a hospital with a non-life-threatening gunshot wound, Portland police said in a statement. No other detail on the injury was provided.

Officers went to Cleveland High School around 12:30 p.m. after someone called 911 to report hearing gunshots in the area.

"According to witnesses, two vehicles may have been involved," the statement said. "Neither vehicle stayed at the scene of the shooting."

Police asked anyone with information about the shooting to contact them.

Portland has seen a big upswing in the number of shootings, with the homicide rate surging 207% since 2019.

Two students were wounded in a drive-by shooting in October near a different high school in Portland.

Recount confirms Lauren Boebert narrowly held her House seat

DENVER (AP)—An automatic recount confirmed Monday that Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert won her reelection bid against Democrat Adam Frisch. The nail-biter race showed the congresswoman's combative style is wearying voters in her conservative Colorado district.

Secretary of State Jena Griswold announced the results Monday evening. Frisch netted a total of four votes in the recount, far from enough to close a 500-plus vote gap with Boebert. An Aspen City Councilman, Frisch had already conceded the race last month after the first tally put him just under the state's margin for a mandatory recount.

Few expected the race to come down to such a narrow margin. In her first term in office, Boebert rocketed to national renown for her staunch support for former President Donald Trump, aggressive use of social media and willingness to engage in personal feuds with Democratic representatives.

Frisch ran against what her called her " angertainment," saying he wouldn't back U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as party leader and describing himself as a nonpartisan problem-solver. Few gave him much of a chance in the conservative 3rd Congressional District, which edges up against some famed, liberal ski towns but is dominated by vast, less glamorous and energy-rich swathes of rural Colorado.

Trump probe subpoena served on Georgia secretary of state

ATLANTA (AP)—Nevada's most populous county and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger have received subpoenas related to special counsel Jack Smith's investigation of former President Donald Trump, who focused strongly on the states as he sought to overturn his 2020 election loss.

Smith was appointed last month to oversee not only the Justice Department's Mar-a-Lago investigation but also aspects of Trump's scramble to stay in power — including his efforts in Georgia and Nevada — and the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

In a Jan. 2 phone call, Trump had suggested that Raffensperger "find" the votes needed to give him a win in Georgia.

The Georgia subpoena, which is dated Friday and was received by Raffensperger's office Monday, follows others served last week in several states and counties. Like those other locations, Georgia was a target of Trump and his allies as they sought to overturn his loss in the 2020 election.

The special counsel is seeking "any and all communications in any form" between June 1, 2020, and Jan. 20, 2021, "to, from or involving" Trump, his campaign, lawyers and aides, including former campaign officials such as Bill Stepien and Justin Clark and lawyers John Eastman, Boris Epshteyn, L. Lin Wood, Sidney Powell and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, according to the subpoena, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

Separately Monday, the AP obtained through a public records request the copy of a Nov. 22 subpoena sent by Smith to local election officials in Clark County, Nevada, the state's most populous county. The subpoena seeks similar information as the ones sent to other states.

Efforts by Trump and his associates to reverse his loss in Georgia are currently the subject of a separate investigation led by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis in Atlanta. A special grand jury seated to aid that investigation has heard from dozens of witnesses, including a number of high-profile Trump allies, over the past six months and is expected to wrap up its work soon.

Among other things, Willis is investigating the Jan. 2, 2021, phone call between Trump and Raffensperger.

It was not immediately clear whether any counties in Georgia had also received subpoenas from the special counsel.

World

Ukraine president again presses West for advanced weapons

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pressed Western leaders again on Monday to provide more advanced weapons to help his country in its war with Russia, and he repeated his calls for Russian forces to withdraw from occupied areas of Ukraine, suggesting Christmas as a date to retreat.

During a video conference, Zelenskky told host Germany and other leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers: "It would be right to begin the withdrawal of Russian troops from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine this Christmas. If Russia withdraws its troops from Ukraine, then a reliable cessation of hostilities will be ensured."

He added: "The answer from Moscow will show what they really want there: either a further confrontation with the world or finally an end to aggression."

The G-7 leaders supported Zelenskyy's appeal, saying in a statement after their meeting that "Russia can end this war immediately by ceasing its attacks against Ukraine and completely and unconditionally withdrawing its forces from the territory of Ukraine."

The Kremlin has rejected all previous appeals to reverse its land grabs in Ukraine. It didn't immediately respond to this latest one.

The two countries haven't engaged in any recent peace talks and there is no end in sight for the war, which is in its 10th month and has killed and wounded tens of thousands of people and left dozens of Ukrainian cities and towns in ruins .

Russia has illegally annexed parts of eastern and southern Ukraine, including the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, though it doesn't fully control all of them. Zelenskyy has said his goal is to reclaim all occupied territory, while Russian President Vladimir Putin insists on solidifying his forces' control over the areas.

In his address to the G-7, Zelenskyy echoed his prime minister's Sunday appeal for long-range missiles, modern tanks, artillery and missile batteries and other high-tech air defense systems to counter Russian attacks that have knocked out electricity and water supplies for millions of Ukrainians. He acknowledged that, "Unfortunately, Russia still has an advantage in artillery and missiles."

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told French broadcaster LCI that in addition to making Ukrainians suffer, Russia wants to swamp Europe with Ukrainian refugees by striking power stations and other infrastructure. Zelenskyy told the G-7 that protecting Ukraine's energy facilities from Russian missiles and Iranian drones "will be the protection of the whole of Europe, since with these strikes Russia is provoking a humanitarian and migration catastrophe not only for Ukraine, but also for the entire EU."

Poland's president, Andrzej Duda, said his nation already has seen an increased demand to shelter refugees.

"The number of refugees in Poland has risen (recently) to some 3 million. That will probably also mean an increase in their numbers in Germany," Duda said following talks with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Berlin.

On Monday, Russian shelling again mostly focused on eastern and southern regions that Putin illegally annexed.

To defend against further strikes, Shmyhal repeated Ukrainian calls for Patriot surface-to-air missiles — a highly sophisticated system. During the LCI interview, he also asked for more German and French air-defense systems, resupplies of artillery shells and modern battle tanks.

Providing Patriot missiles to Ukraine would advance the kinds of defense systems the West is sending to help the country repel Russian aerial attacks, and would likely mark an escalation.

A U.S. official told reporters the Pentagon has no current plans to send Patriot missiles to Ukraine, but that discussions continue. The key issue is that the complex, high-tech system requires significant maintenance and training, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing operations in Ukraine.

Air defenses were also a topic of a phone call Zelenskyy held Sunday with U.S. President Joe Biden. Biden "highlighted how the U.S. is prioritizing efforts to strengthen Ukraine's air defense through our security assistance, including the Dec. 9 announcement of $275 million in additional ammunition and equipment that included systems to counter the Russian use of unmanned aerial vehicles," the White House said.

Anger in rural areas fuels protests against Peru government

ANDAHUAYLAS, Peru (AP)—The anger of Peruvians against their government is nowhere more visible than in Andahuaylas, a remote rural Andean community where the poor have struggled for years and where voters' support helped elect now-ousted President Pedro Castillo, himself a peasant like them.

Their fury is such that their protests continued Monday despite the deaths of seven people, among them two young demonstrators over the weekend, including 17-year-old Beckham Romario Quispe Garfias.

As thousands of people spilled into the streets, Raquel Quispe recalled her brother as a talented athlete tired of feeling invisible in the eyes of politicians. He was named for English soccer great David Beckham and Romario, the Brazilian soccer phenomenon turned politician.

Clouds above her, she stood outside the hospital where his body was kept, and with a simmering anger in her voice, at times betrayed by tears, she summed up what drove him and others to protest since Castillo's ouster last week: an exclusionary democracy.

"For them, those who are there in Congress, the only opinion that is valid is that of Peruvians who have money, of wealthy people," said Quispe, an early childhood education teacher.

"They do whatever they want. For them... the vote of the provinces is not valid, it is useless. But the vote of the people of Lima is taken into account. That is an injustice for all of Peru."

About 3,000 people gathered in the streets of Andahuaylas Monday, to protest and to mourn and pay their respects before the white caskets of the young men who died over the weekend. Across the community, rocks were scattered on roads still marked by simmering fires. An airstrip used by the armed forces remained blocked, black smoke still etched on a nearby building.

Demonstrators across rural communities, including Andahuaylas, continued to call on President Dina Boluarte to resign and schedule general elections to replace her and all members of Congress. They also want authorities to free Castillo, who was detained Wednesday when he was ousted by lawmakers after he sought to dissolve Congress ahead of an impeachment vote.

WORLD BRIEFS

China students return home amid COVID travel spread fears

BEIJING (AP)—Some Chinese universities say they will allow students to finish the semester from home in hopes of reducing the potential of a bigger COVID-19 outbreak during the January Lunar New Year travel rush.

It wasn't clear how many schools were taking part, but universities in Shanghai and nearby cities said students would be given the option of either returning home early or staying on campus and undergoing testing every 48 hours. The Lunar New Year, which falls on Jan. 22 this year, is traditionally China's busiest travel season.

Universities have been the scene of frequent lockdowns over the past three years, occasionally leading to clashes between the authorities and students confined to campus or even their dorm rooms.

Tuesday's announcements came as China begins relaxing its strict "zero-COVID" policy, allowing people with mild symptoms to stay home rather than be sent to a quarantine center, among other changes that followed widespread protests.

Fire engulfs another Moscow mall, 2nd such fire in 4 days

MOSCOW (AP)—A massive fire gutted a shopping mall on Moscow's eastern outskirts on Monday, the second such blaze in four days.

The blaze at the mall in Balashikha that trades in construction items and home decoration materials first erupted at a storage area and later spread to part of the building. A guard was hospitalized after inhaling toxic fumes from the fire.

Fire-fighting teams managed to localize it to an area of about 9,000 square meters (97,000 square feet) and prevent it from engulfing the entire mall.

Officials said the fire was caused by a short circuit that came amid heavy rain in Moscow.

The blaze follows Friday's fire that destroyed the huge OBI construction materials store, part of the MEGA shopping mall in Khimki on the Russian capital's northwestern outskirts.

Officials said that the fire that killed one security guard was sparked by welding that apparently violated safety regulations.

New Zealand PM Ardern caught name-calling rival on hot mic

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was caught on a hot mic Tuesday using a vulgarity against a rival politician in a rare misstep for a leader known for her skill at debating and calm, measured responses.

After five years as prime minister, Ardern faces a tough election campaign in 2023. Her liberal Labour Party won reelection two years ago in a landslide of historic proportions, but recent polls have put her party behind its conservative rivals.

The comment came after lawmaker David Seymour, who leads the libertarian ACT party, peppered Ardern with questions about her government's record for around seven minutes during Parliament's Question Time, which allows for spirited debate between rival parties.

As an aside to her deputy Grant Robertson, Ardern said what sounded like, "He's such an arrogant pr———," after sitting down. Her words are barely audible on Parliament TV but are just picked up in the background by her desk microphone as House Speaker Adrian Rurawhe talks.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/CGC-ZERO SUICIDE PROGRAM-004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DEC 23RD, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROGRAM EVALUATION MONITORING, COMPLIANCE AND DATA COLLECTION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/P&S-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DEC. 16, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"SALE OF CHCC USED VEHICLES"

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CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/ELC-EDE-005
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY (ELC) PROGRAM – ENHANCING DETECTION EXPANSION (EDE)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JAN. 16TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LABORATORY RENOVATION / IMPROVEMENT PROJECT"
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring and Construction) for CHC Hospital /Public Health Laboratory Department

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Good Housekeeping

What's next in interior design trends

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

What's new? What's next? When it comes to interior design trends, the answer is a myriad of timeless trends, as well as a number of new ones.

Curious? Here's a guide of what to look out for.

1. Round lines and soft edges
Rounded arms and chunky furniture are currently on trend in upholstery and even tables.

2. Acrylic and resin
As far as transparent surfaces go, both acrylic and resin are being infused into a number of modern furniture selections.

3. Tropical prints
Big leaves are in. Look for palms and tropical leaves, from greenery to artwork.

4. Pastel
No longer considered feminine or old-fashioned, pastel color palettes are both current and soothing.

5. Mirrors
Looking for a budget-friendly alternative to artwork? Consider mirrors. Hang them in groupings for an impactful look.

6. Indigo
Indigo remains a modern alternative to black. Use this rich color as a primary color in a room or as an accent.

7. Wallpaper
Cue the '70s music. Wallpaper was in, then out, and now it is certainly back in. Wallpaper is a way to add texture, color and pattern to nearly any space.

8. Black and white
One of the most timeless color palettes remains on trend.

9. Faux fur
From accent pillows to accent furniture, faux fur is a way to add texture and glamour.

10. Wood
From slab tables to accent furniture, wood can infuse both an organic and natural element.

A triptych featuring indigo as its primary color takes center stage in this dining space. SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

Pastel pink and round furniture elements fill this elegant living space. PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS
Black-and-white artwork adds a bold, modern edge to a hallway.

PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS
A large tropical leaf art piece is an on trend, but timeless, art selection.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS
Wood and wood elements add an organic element to this living space.

Life & Style

Elon Musk takes the stage, amid boos, at Chappelle's show

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Dave Chappelle asked the crowd at his comedy show to "make some noise for the world's richest man."

They did. Lots of booing.

It was a rather uncomfortable appearance for Elon Musk, Twitter's new owner, at Chappelle's show with Chris Rock on Sunday night at the Chase Center in San Francisco. At the end of the show, Chappelle was talking about the need to get along and communicate with people with different viewpoints and perspectives.

He invited Musk onstage. The billionaire obliged, wearing an "I Love Twitter" T-shirt. Loud boos filled the arena – along with some cheers, too.

Musk

Chappelle joked to Musk: "Sounds like some of those people you fired." As the boos continued to ring out, the comic pointed out that "All you people booing, and I'm just pointing out the obvious—are in terrible seats."

Twitter is going through massive changes since Musk took over the social media platform, with the first few weeks of tenure seeing widespread layoffs and the restoration of several blocked accounts, including those of former president Donald Trump and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene.

Chappelle

The other performers from the night, including Rock, Donnell Rawlings from "Chappelle's Show" and the hip hop group Black Star, came up on stage to say goodnight, while Musk also remained on stage. Chappelle asked Musk to repeat Rawlings' catch phrase from their classic show – "I'm rich b—–" Rawlings went first, and then Musk complied.

That's when Chappelle asked the crowd not to boo Musk as he needs him to open up the first comedy club on Mars. He also asked Musk if he could help Black Star's Talib Kweli, who Chappelle said had been banned from Twitter.

Musk, who bought Twitter for $44 billion in October, responded by saying: "Twitter customer service here."

He stayed onstage and shook hands with many of the performers. Attendees had been required to lock up their phones during the show, but a few videos of the encounter made their way online.

BTS member Jin goes to frontline boot camp for military duty

YEONCHEON, South Korea (AP)—Jin, the oldest member of K-pop supergroup BTS, was set to enter a frontline South Korean boot camp Tuesday to start his 18 months of mandatory military service, as fans gathered near the base to say goodbye to their star.

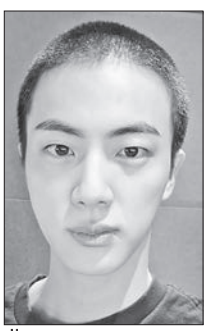
Six other younger BTS members are to join the military in coming years one after another, meaning that South Korea's most successful music band must take a hiatus, likely for a few years. Their enlistments have prompted a fierce domestic debate over whether it's time to revise the country's conscription system to expand exemptions to include prominent entertainers like BTS, or not to provide such benefits to anyone.

With lawmakers squabbling at Parliament and surveys showing sharply split public opinions over offering exemptions to BTS members, their management agency said in October that all BTS members would perform their compulsory military duties. Big Hit Music said that both the company and the members of BTS "are looking forward to reconvening as a group again around 2025 following their service commitment."

Jin, who turned 30 earlier this month, is to enter the boot camp at Yeoncheon, a town near the tense border with North Korea, for five weeks of basic military training together with other new conscript soldiers. After that training, he would be given a specific role and sent to a certain army unit, a process that all other conscripts go through.

"It's time for a curtain call," Jin wrote Tuesday morning on the online fan platform Weverse. He posted a photo of himself Sunday with a military buzzcut and a message saying, "Ha ha ha. It's cuter than I had expected."

Mandy Lee from Hong Kong was among the first group of people who gathered near the base to see Jin off. "I want to wait (for) Jin and see him go into the military and wish him all the best," Lee said.


Jim

About 20-30 fans showed up near the camp, a small number given Jin's huge popularity. Jin and Bit Hit Music have separately asked fans not to visit the site to prevent any issue caused by a crowding and didn't plan any special events Tuesday involving Jin near the base.

Police officers still closed off some streets to maintain order and prevent any accidents, and officials deployed an ambulance at the site. Strict safety steps were expected as South Korea is still reeling from the devastating Halloween crush in October in Seoul that killed 158 people.

By law, all able-bodied South Korean men must serve in the military for 18-21 months. But the law gives special exemptions to athletes, classical and traditional musicians, and ballet and other dancers if they have won top prizes in certain competitions and enhance national prestige. K-pop stars and other entertainers aren't given such benefits even if they gain worldwide fame and win big international awards.

"Though BTS members have opted to go to the military, there are still some sort of regrets," said Jung Duk-hyun, a pop culture commentator. "Those in the pop culture sector experience little bit of disadvantages and unfairness, compared with those in the pure art sector or athletes. This will likely continue to be an issue of controversy so I wonder if it must be discussed continuously."

Exemptions or dodging of duties are a highly sensitive issue in South Korea, where the draft forces young men to suspend their studies or professional careers. Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup and Lee Ki Sik, head of South Korea's enlistment office, previously said it would be "desirable" for BTS members to fulfill their military duties to ensure fairness in the country's military service.

Chun In-bum, a retired lieutenant general who commanded South Korea's special forces, said the government must move to repeal any exemptions as the military's shrinking recruitment pool is "a very serious" problem amid the country's declining fertility rate. He called a debate over BTS's military service "unnecessary" as it wasn't raised by BTS members, who have shown willingness in carrying out their duties.

BTS was created in 2013 and has a legion of global supporters who call themselves the "Army." Its other members are RM, Suga, J-Hope, Jimin, V and Jungkook, who is the youngest at 25. The group expanded its popularity in the West with its 2020 megahit "Dynamite," the band's first all-English song that made BTS the first K-pop act to top Billboard's Hot 100. The band has performed in sold-out arenas around the world and was even invited to speak at United Nations meetings.

Hybe Corp., the parent company of Big Hit, said in October that each member of the band for the time being would focus on individual activities scheduled around their military service plans. In October, Jin released "The Astronaut," a single co-written by Coldplay.

Jung, the commentator, said sold projects could give BTS members much-needed time to develop themselves after working together as a group for many years. But Cha Woo-jin, a K-pop commentator, said it's unclear if BTS would enjoy the same popularity as a group when they get together again after finishing their military duties in a few years.

In August, Lee, the defense minister, said BTS members who are serving would likely be allowed to continue practicing and to join other non-serving BTS members in overseas group tours.

Man trying to win back ex blindsided by her new beau

DEAR ABBY: My ex-wife, "Jenny," and I were together seven years, married for almost five of them. We have a young child together. We have been divorced for eight months. I have been trying to reconcile with her because she is the love of my life and I want our family to be together.

The problem is, since we separated, she has been seeing my ex-best friend, "Mack," who was the best man at our wedding. I was crushed when I found out. I have tried to show Jenny that Mack is a manipulator and a liar and that he hasn't been honest with her during their time together.

I know that I am clearly the best man for Jenny, our son and our family. However, she continues to see Mack even after his true colors have been shown and after I have done everything to make things right with us and win her back. How should I proceed, knowing she's making the wrong decision?

RIGHTING A WRONG

DEAR RIGHTING: Please accept my sympathy because it's obvious you are hurting. You can't save your marriage all by yourself. It takes two. Your ex is unwilling to accept that Mack hasn't been honest, and sometimes people must learn the hard way. As much as you'd like to "save" Jenny, she's going to have to make her own mistakes. Stay close so you can buffer your son if there are stormy seas ahead. If Mack is as bad as you say, their romance likely will not last.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two adult sons, 22 and 20. We helped them become independent by teaching them as teenagers to cook, do their laundry, scrub their bathrooms, vacuum, do dishes, etc.

Our oldest moved out a year ago and rented an apartment with his 28-year-old girlfriend. A month after he moved, we were invited to their place for dinner. The apartment was a mess. We let our son know they need to spend 15 to 30 minutes every day picking up after themselves so their days off won't be spent cleaning. They both work crazy hours.

Neither one thinks cleaning their apartment is important! We have bought them cleaning supplies, a vacuum, a mop, etc., to help them maintain their apartment, but they sit unused. Their place is now a total disaster. It pains me to see them live like this. This isn't how our son was raised.

By the way, she is the mother of a 5-year-old who stays with her three days a week. Part of me wants to call CPS because no child should live in these conditions, but I'm hesitant because of my son. He loves her and enjoys living with her. I desperately need advice on how to best handle this.

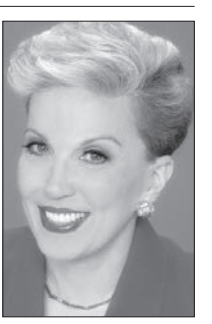
FASTIDIOUS IN WASHINGTON

DEAR FASTIDIOUS: I understand that you are disgusted, but the "best way to handle this" would be to step back and stay out of it. This is how your son has chosen to live—for now. If he is bothered by the mess, he's capable of stepping in to rectify it. You should not call CPS unless the child is in imminent danger.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

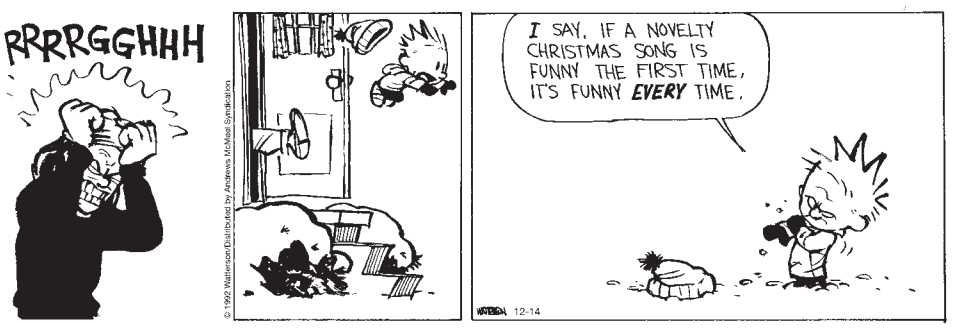


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


RRRRGGHHH
I SAY, IF A NOVELTY CHRISTMAS SONG IS FUNNY THE FIRST TIME, IT'S FUNNY EVERY TIME.
© 1992 Watterson/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
12-14

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ONLY ODIE COULD PULL THE STRIPE OFF A CANDY CANE
JIM DAVIS 12-14
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DOES ALL THE CHRISTMAS MUSIC ALL DAY DRIVE YOU A LITTLE NUTS?
HA.
NO, HA HA HA. HA.
HA HA HA HA HAAAAAA.
WHOA. HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR EYES PINWHEEL LIKE THAT?
www.gocomics.com
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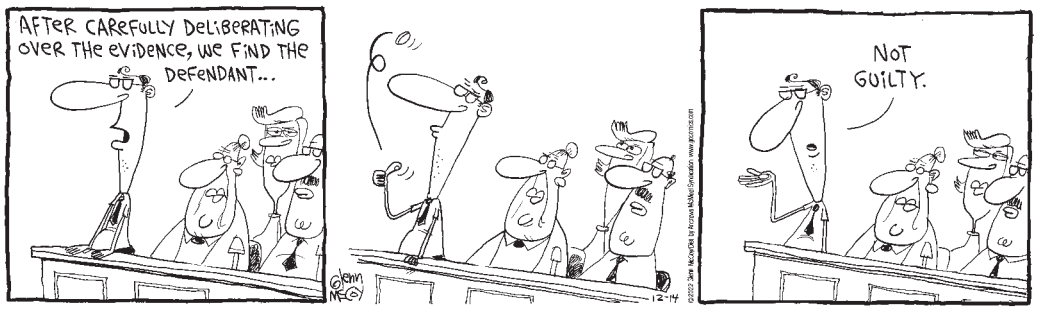
12-14

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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15 Editing site for news stories
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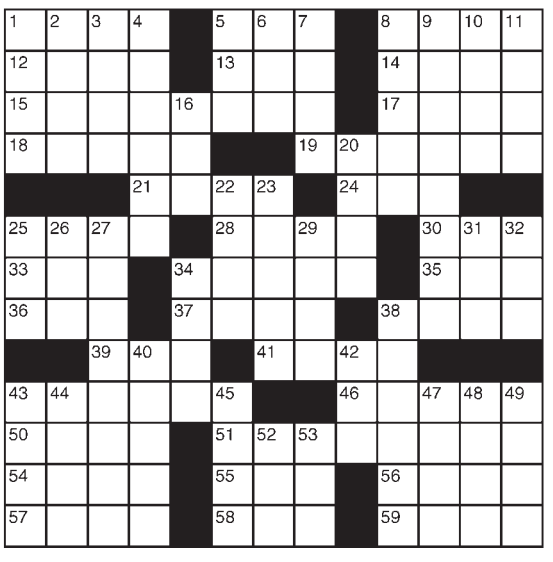
32 Dict. info
34 C&W artist McEntire
38 Swaps
40 "The Sopranos" restaurateur
42 Branch
43 Beer ingredient
44 Beyoncé's "If I Were —"
45 Wound cover
47 Freshens lawns
48 Ninny
49 Picnic intruders
52 Past
53 Tony winner Salonga

Solution time: 23 mins.

W	I	G	S			R	E	A		E	A	S	T
E	D	N	A			E	A	R		A	M	E	S
B	O	U	T	I	Q	U	E			G	O	R	P
			I	D	S			A	D	L	I	B	S
S	C	E	N	E			B	R	I	E			
C	O	T	Y		B	O	U	N	T	I	E	S	
A	C	T		A	R	E	G	O		D	A	H	
B	O	U	L	D	E	R	S		A	E	R	O	
			L	E	A	S		D	R	A	P	E	
B	Y	H	A	N	D		N	E	T				
R	O	A	M		B	O	U	F	F	A	N	T	
A	G	U	A		O	N	T		U	R	I	S	
G	A	L	S		X	E	S		L	A	N	E	

Yesterday's answer 12-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vanessa Hudgens, 34; Sophie Monk, 43; Beth Orton, 52; Dee Wallace, 74.

Happy Birthday: Ask questions and be honest with yourself and others regarding your feelings and intentions. Sticking to the truth and following a route that feels right will help you achieve your goal this year. Engage in activities that eliminate stress rather than escalate it. You will make better decisions if you choose to learn and keep up with whatever is trending or marketable. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 27, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take the high road if someone spews negativity in your direction. A kind word will make a difference and help change the atmosphere in the room. Put your energy into tidying up loose ends and preparing for the upcoming year. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A little festive cheer with clients, colleagues or someone you love will get you in the festive spirit. Touch base with people you won't see over the holidays or volunteer to help those in need. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take a moment to recap what's happening around you. Be safe instead of sorry when dealing with matters that have consequences. Question everyone and everything before you move into fast-forward and turn your intentions into a reality. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stretch your mind, be innovative and update your skills to fit today's trends. You have plenty to gain if you set a course that takes you from beginning to end. Completion is the goal, and discipline and drive will get you there. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stick to your plan and carry on, regardless of what others do. By putting your heart and soul into things that matter to you, you'll get results that make a difference. Don't let someone's uncertainty unnerve you or interfere with your progress. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't disclose your feelings. An opinionated approach when dealing with others won't help you get what you want. The way to bring about change is through positive action and being willing to do the work yourself. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Walk on eggshells. It will be easy to disrupt domestic situations if you don't choose your words wisely. Focus on being helpful, positive and patient with those you spend a lot of time with, and you'll dodge an emotional bullet. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep your life simple. Don't change anything that's not necessary. Clearing up time-sensitive business will help stabilize your life personally and professionally. Touch base with an older friend or relative, and you'll gain an interesting point of view. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Leave nothing to chance. Have patience with others, but don't take on responsibilities that belong to someone else. Take precautions when faced with controversy. Don't suggest ideas or concepts that aren't tested or proven. Practice discipline and live within your means. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You're on a roll, and nothing can stop you. Challenges will be easy for you to handle. Share your vision with people who can help you achieve your goal. By mixing business with pleasure, good things will transpire. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Reach out and help those less fortunate. Volunteer, and you'll meet someone interesting. A proactive approach will ensure you get things done on time and to your liking. Do something that reflects the spirit of the season with someone you love. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you love and resolve differences. Keeping the peace will help you sail into next year with the hope of good things to come. Don't let anger be your vehicle when love offers a higher return. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, playful and loving. You are intelligent and motivated.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3				
			2		6			
		9				2		
		4		5		1		
	3	7				5	8	
5	8	2		1		6	3	9
		5				9		
	6	8	5		3	7	4	
9	1			4			2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	4	8	9	6	5	1	2	7
1	7	5	8	3	2	4	9	6
2	6	9	4	7	1	3	8	5
9	5	4	6	1	8	7	3	2
8	3	1	2	5	7	6	4	9
7	2	6	3	9	4	5	1	8
5	8	3	1	2	6	9	7	4
6	1	2	7	4	9	8	5	3
4	9	7	5	8	3	2	6	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

STOCKADES **Solution: 8 letters**

E	G	A	L	L	I	V	Y	R	A	D	N	U	O	B
V	T	R	E	E	S	N	C	O	V	E	R	S	A	L
I	I	O	Y	N	E	C	E	B	G	F	O	R	T	O
S	M	C	R	C	A	G	E	D	U	U	R	R	S	C
N	B	K	A	I	I	T	I	B	R	I	C	K	T	K
E	E	Y	T	R	D	R	A	Y	E	A	L	H	A	T
F	R	C	I	C	B	M	A	R	M	Y	G	D	N	E
E	W	A	L	L	S	S	E	T	C	I	T	Y	D	K
D	O	V	I	E	T	T	C	D	R	S	G	O	L	C
E	O	I	M	U	E	U	I	P	I	(E)	(T)	(A)	(G)	I
T	D	R	M	M	R	L	U	C	F	E	N	C	E	P
N	E	P	I	T	O	W	E	R	K	D	V	C	Y	A
I	N	R	S	S	E	N	C	L	O	S	E	A	H	N
O	E	B	E	N	I	F	N	O	C	A	S	T	L	E
P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N	O	I	T	A	C	O	L

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/14

Army, Barrier, Block, Boundary, Brick, Bridge, Build, Cage, Castle, City, Confine, Cover, Defensive, Encircle, Enclose, Fence, Fort, Garden, Gate, Land, Location, Logs, Medieval, Military, Obstruct, Panel, Perimeter, Picket, Pointed, Position, Privacy, Rock, Solid, Stand, Sticks, Stump, Timber, Tower, Trees, Trench, Upright, Village, Wooden, Yard

Yesterday's Answer: Hay

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Durant, Irving propel rested Nets past skidding Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 30 points, Kyrie Irving had 24 and the well-rested Brooklyn Nets methodically pulled away for a 112-100 win against the overmatched Washington Wizards on Monday night.

The Nets, who won at Indiana on Saturday night with their top seven scorers sitting out, matched a season best with their fourth straight victory. All those players were back in action Monday except Royce O'Neale, who missed a second consecutive game for personal reasons.

Will Barton had a season-high 22 points for the Wizards, who lost their season-worst seventh game in a row. Washington was missing leading scorer Bradley Beal (right hamstring strain) for the fourth straight game.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 20 points for the Wizards, but departed with 3:37 left in the third quarter and didn't return. Porzingis rode an exercise bike with a pad strapped to his back while on the bench in the first half.

Clippers 113, Celtics 93

In Los Angeles, Paul George scored 26 points, Kawhi Leonard had season highs of 25 points and nine rebounds, and Los Angeles beat NBA-leading Boston.

Leonard also had six assists in one of his best all-around games of a young season that has been interrupted at times while he eases his way back from ACL surgery that cost him all of last season.

Jaylen Brown scored 21 points to lead the Celtics, who dropped two in a row for just the second time this season. They had won eight of 10, including a loss at Golden State on Saturday. Jayson Tatum added 20 — well below his 30-point average — and 11 rebounds.

Mavericks 121, Thunder 114

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 38 points and 11 rebounds in his return from a one-game absence, and Spencer Dinwiddie added 20 points and 10 assists as Dallas defeated Oklahoma City.

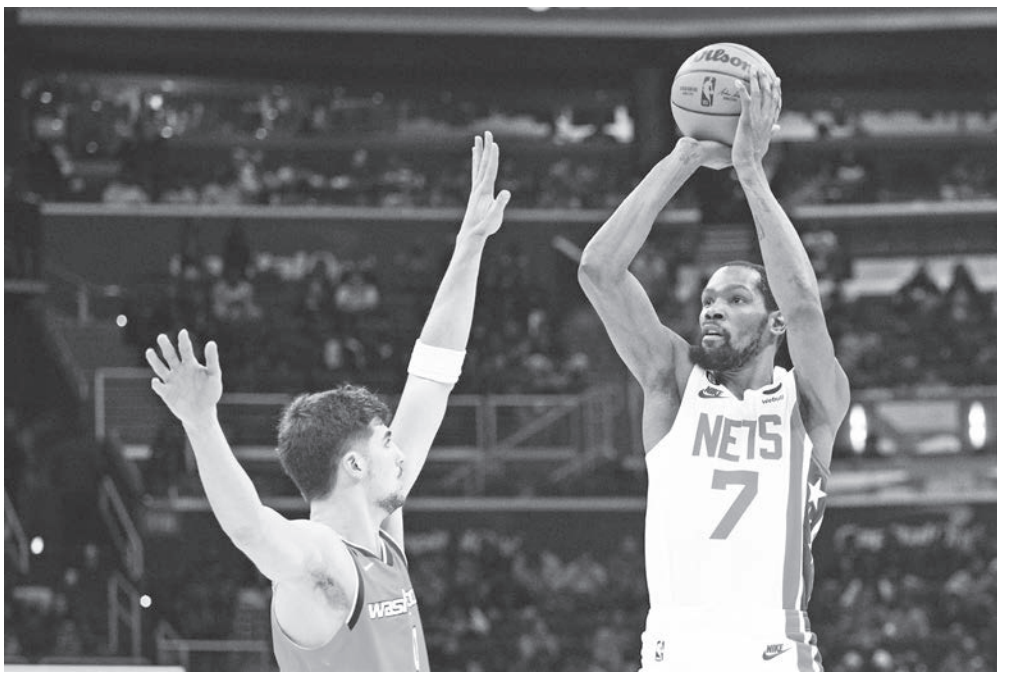
Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 20 for the Mavericks, who ended a two-game skid.

Doncic sat out a 29-point loss at Chicago on Saturday night with a strained right quadriceps. The Mavericks were completing a back-to-back, having played at home Friday in a 9 p.m. start.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander matched his season high with 42 points for the Thunder, who lost their third straight in the finale of a five-game road trip.

Heat 87, Pacers 82

In Indianapolis, Bam Adebayo had 22 points and 17 rebounds, and Jimmy Butler scored seven straight points late in the fourth quarter to help Miami hold off Indiana.



AP

Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant (7) looks to shoot against Washington Wizards forward Deni Avdija (9) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, in Washington.

Butler finished with 20 points. The Heat had lost three of their previous four but evened the season series with Indiana by pulling away late.

Buddy Hield led the Pacers with 19 points and Andrew Nembhard scored 18. Indiana has lost two straight and six of eight.

Grizzlies 128, Hawks 103

In Memphis, Tenn., Tyus Jones had 22 points and 11 assists, Dillon Brooks added 18 points and streaking Memphis beat shorthanded Atlanta with both teams minus key starters.

Santi Aldama scored 16 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 15 points and a career-best eight blocks for the Grizzlies, who won their sixth straight and moved within a half-game of Western Conference-leading New Orleans.

De'Andre Hunter led the Hawks with 19 points, and Jalen Johnson added 14 points and nine rebounds. Atlanta lost for the fourth time in five games.

Both teams were missing their leading scorers. Grizzlies guard Ja Morant sat out with right thigh soreness, while counterpart Trae Young was dealing with lower back tightness.

Young's absence meant Atlanta was down five of its top six scorers, including Dejounte Murray and Bogdan Bogdanovic.

Spurs 112, Cavaliers 111

In San Antonio, Keldon Johnson scored 21 points and blocked a late shot by Donovan Mitchell as San Antonio held off Cleveland.

Josh Richardson had 24 points to help the Spurs win their third straight after an 11-game losing streak.

Mitchell scored 28 to keep Cleveland close. The Cavaliers trailed by 19 in the third quarter and rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final 4 1/2 minutes for a chance to win.

Mitchell's runner was blocked by Johnson with 6.1 seconds remaining. Following an offensive rebound by Caris LeVert, Darius Garland missed a 3-pointer with 0.1 seconds remaining.

LeVert finished with 23 points, and Evan Mobley had 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavs.

Trail Blazers 133, Timberwolves 112

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard tied his own franchise record by making 11 3-pointers and finished with 38 points, leading Portland past Minnesota.

Lillard shot 11 for 17 from long range and didn't play in the fourth quarter. The Trail Blazers never trailed and led by as many as 27.

Jerami Grant had 24 points for Portland, and Jusuf Nurkic added 14 points and 16 rebounds.

D'Angelo Russell scored 23 for the Timberwolves. Rudy Gobert grabbed 20 rebounds to go with 16 points.

Paul Silas, 3-time NBA champion, longtime coach, dies at 79

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Basketball taught Paul Silas how to be patient.

As a player, he waited 10 years before winning his first championship. As a coach, he waited 15 years for a second chance at running a team. As a father, he waited 20 years before seeing his son get a chance to lead a franchise.

"I always tried to remain positive," Silas said in 2013, "and I think it usually worked out."

Silas — who touched the game as a player, coach and president of the National Basketball Players Association — died, his family announced Sunday. Silas, whose son, Stephen Silas, is coach of the Houston Rockets, was 79.

"He combined the knowledge developed over nearly 40 years as an NBA player and coach with an innate understanding of how to mix discipline with his never-ending positivity," Charlotte Hornets chairman Michael Jordan said. "On or off the court, Paul's enthusiastic and engaging personality was accompanied by an anecdote for every occasion. He was one of the all-time great people in our game, and he will be missed."

Silas' daughter, Paula Silas-Guy, told The New York Times that her father died Saturday night of cardiac arrest. The Boston Globe first reported Silas' death.

"We mourn the passing of former NBA All-Star and head coach Paul Silas," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "Paul's lasting contributions to the game are seen through the many players and coaches he inspired, including his son, Rockets head coach Stephen Silas. We send our deepest condolences to Paul's family."

Tributes began arriving quickly. Pregame moments of silence were held in New Orleans, Philadelphia, New York and Houston among other places, and Phoenix Suns coach Monty Williams and Charlotte coach Steve Clifford were among those who spoke at length about Silas' role on their careers.

"For my family, he's a god. He's larger than life," Clifford said.

Paul Silas began his career as a head coach with a three-year stint leading the then-San Diego Clippers starting in 1980. After spending more than a decade as an assistant, he returned to being a head coach and spent time with the Charlotte Hornets, the New Orleans Hornets, the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Charlotte Bobcats.

He took four of those teams to the playoffs, winning exactly 400 games — 387 in the regular season, 13 more in the postseason.

"Probably one of the greatest human beings I've ever been around," LeBron James told Spectrum SportsNet after he and the Los Angeles Lakers defeated Detroit on Sunday night. "The start of my journey in this league started with him. His command, his principles, his attention to detail, his love for family ... to hear that news was very sad."

The Rockets played host to Milwaukee on Sunday night, winning 97-92. It was not immediately clear how long Stephen Silas would be away from the team; the Rockets are having assistant coach John Lucas lead the team on an interim basis while the Silas family grieves.

"His engaging presence and huge personality inspired legions of NBA players and coaches," the Cavaliers said of Paul Silas in a team-released statement. "We send our deepest condolences to the Silas family and everyone that loved him. Rest in power Coach!"

Stephen Silas got into the NBA world when his father was coaching in Charlotte, starting as an advance scout and eventually serving as an assistant on his father's staff with the Hornets in 2000. It took Stephen Silas two decades to get a chance to be a head coach, that coming when Houston hired him in 2020.

"My dad, obviously, he was my No. 1 mentor, someone who I could lean on, ask questions and he asked questions of me," Stephen Silas said in a 2021 documentary produced by the Rockets about his coaching journey. "He really valued my opinion, which was kind of weird to me, me being so young and not having much experience."

Stephen Silas persevered for a long time before getting his big chance. He saw his father wait a long time for the job he wanted as well. Paul Silas was fired by the San Diego Clippers in 1983 and wouldn't have a head coaching opportunity again until 1999 — coming when Dave Cowens, for whom Paul Silas was an assistant, stepped down in Charlotte after a 4-11 start to the shortened 1998-99 season.

"I stayed positive. I had a positive attitude," Paul Silas told the Rotary Club of Charlotte while giving a speech there in 2013. "Even though I couldn't get the job, I said, 'No, I'm not going to be negative. I'm going to be positive.'"

Eventually, Silas would take over in Cleveland. He got there in 2003, the same year the Cavaliers drafted James.

"I coached LeBron for two years, his first two years, and LeBron was unbelievable," Paul Silas said. "At 18 years old, he knew about Bill Russell, he knew about a lot of players who came through that most players his age don't even know. And he understood the game."

In time, James would become a champion. It took Paul Silas a few years to get to that level as a player as well.

He was a five-time All-Defensive team selection who averaged 9.4 points and 9.9 rebounds in 16 seasons with the St. Louis and Atlanta Hawks, Phoenix, Boston, Denver and Seattle. Silas won two titles with the Celtics — the first coming in his 10th season as a player — and claimed a third with the SuperSonics. At 36, he was then the NBA's oldest player when he retired. And as the union president, Silas oversaw a time where rosters grew, salaries rose and benefits improved.

"Respected by all those who encountered him throughout the NBA, we are grateful for his contributions to the game across a lifetime in basketball," the Suns said Sunday.

Paul Silas played his college basketball at Creighton, averaging 20.5 points and 21.6 rebounds in three seasons. He was voted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017.

Said Bluejays coach Greg McDermott: "His illustrious career as a player and coach will be matched by few."

Patriots rally for 27-13 win over Cardinals, Murray hurt

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Patriots linebacker Raekwon McMillan was simply trying to do his job, running over to make sure that teammate Kyle Dugger made the tackle on a routine play.

Suddenly, he saw a football on the ground.

McMillan scooped it up and ran 23 yards for the touchdown, giving the Patriots the go-ahead score in a 27-13 win on Monday night over the Arizona Cardinals, who lost starting Kyler Murray in the first quarter to a potentially serious knee injury.

"I looked back, saw it was just me and a lineman," McMillan said of his mindset when scooping the fumble. "I said 'If I can't beat a lineman, then I don't deserve to be out here.'"

New England trailed 13-10 at the break but tied the game at 13-all early in the third quarter after a short field goal. A few minutes later, the Patriots got their game-changing play and a 20-13 lead later when McMillan scored his touchdown, snatching the loose ball off the grass and sprinting toward the end zone.

Kyle Dugger forced the turnover by stripping Cardinals three-time All-Pro receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who had just caught a pass.

AP

New England Patriots linebacker Raekwon McMillan (50) celebrates after recovering a fumble to score a touchdown against the Arizona Cardinals during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, in Glendale, Ariz.

"I try to be perfect. I let myself down," Hopkins said. "Let coach down, let the guys down. I haven't fumbled all year. It is definitely a reminder to protect the ball."

The Patriots pushed their advantage to 27-13 early in the fourth quarter on Pierre Strong Jr.'s 3-yard run, then leaned on their defense to complete the much-needed win. New England's defense had six sacks, including three by linebacker Josh Uche.

Mac Jones threw for 235 yards and finished 24 for 35 with an interception as New England (7-6) snapped a two-game losing skid to strengthened their AFC playoff positioning.

"There's going to be a lot change over these next four weeks for everybody, that's just how it goes," Andrews said. "You start looking at (playoffs) and you'll let something slip away."

Arizona (4-9) has lost five of six games, including the last three.

Murray was hurt on the third play of the game, immediately changing the complexion of the evening. The fourth-year quarterback was flushed out of the pocket and running to his right when he tried to juke past a Patriots defender, but tumbled to the grass in obvious pain.

Players from both teams surrounded the quarterback before he was carted off the field with a towel draped over his head.

The 36-year-old Colt McCoy has proven a capable replacement for Murray over the past two seasons, coming into Monday's game with a 3-2 mark when Murray was injured. He worked his magic again — at least for a while — leading the Cardinals to a 13-10 halftime lead.

"We've battled injuries all year long," McCoy said. "The guys that are going to go in there are going to fight until the very end. I don't think there is any more you can ask for and I will be proud to go lead them."

The Cardinals took a 3-0 lead early in the second quarter after a 33-yard field goal by Matt Prater. They had good field position for the drive after Isaiah Simmons intercepted a pass from Jones, who was hit on the arm by rookie Cam Thomas as he was throwing.

James Conner bulldozed his way forward for a 10-yard touchdown late in the second quarter, breaking multiple tackles to give the Cardinals a 13-7 lead late in the second quarter. Conner finished with a team-high 85 yards rushing.

The Patriots scored their lone touchdown of the first half when rookie Kevin Harris ran 14 yards to the end zone.

Griner case difficult for US negotiators for 1 key reason: She was guilty

(THE CONVERSATION)—The release from Russian prison of WNBA star Britney Griner has been greeted with general delight in the United States.

Announcing the deal that saw her freed on Dec. 8, 2022, President Joe Biden lauded the "painstaking and intense negotiations" that made it happen. Others may have legitimate concerns over the equivalence of the exchange, which saw convicted arms merchant Viktor Bout returned to Russia.

As a longtime scholar of Russian law, I believe the episode prompts a reflection on the application of Russian law in Griner's case, and more broadly consideration about such exchanges in general.

The problem American negotiators face in such situations is that it matters whether the U.S. citizen is guilty of committing the crime alleged under foreign law or whether there has been a miscarriage of justice, incompetent investigation or prosecution, or false accusation.

And from this perspective, the Griner case was difficult.

A question of 'direct intent'

Griner has yet to give a full account of her story, but the available facts suggest that she legally acquired in the U.S., probably in Arizona or California where she is based, vaping cartridges containing hashish oil upon a physician's recommendation, but not prescription. She then, probably illegally under federal law, carried them across state lines to New York, where vaping cartridges are sold but cannot be carried to states where they are not legal.

From there, the question becomes a classic law school examination issue: Did Griner violate zero-tolerance Russian legislation on narcotics when she boarded a Russian aircraft in New York – unless, of course, she flew Delta as the only U.S. carrier that goes direct?

Or was the law broken when that aircraft entered Russian airspace, or touched down in Moscow? Or perhaps it was when passengers disembarked at Sheremetevo airport, when Griner passed through passport control; or when the basketball star chose the green customs channel at the airport instead of declaring what she had in the red channel and was found out by a sniffer dog policing the green channel. These were all possibilities, but the green channel was incontrovertible.

Accusations of possession and smuggling of narcotics under Russian criminal law require proof of "direct intent" – that the individual knew or should have known what act they were performing. In this case, passing through the green channel with nothing to declare while carrying a controlled substance would constitute direct intent.

That, as Griner said, she did not "intend to commit a crime" when she packed the vaping cartridges in her hand luggage was immaterial. The question was whether she entered the green customs channel with intent.

The choice she made was to not declare the cartridges. Had she done so, the cartridges likely would have been confiscated, but no offense committed.

Under Russian law and also that of the U.S., direct intent was present. What she did was, from her government's standpoint, at best careless and thoughtless. Moreover, it exposed the United States, in the end, to a unwelcome scenario of exchanges at a most difficult time in the international community.

The personal costs to Griner were not insignificant. It likely cost her a lucrative contract, a criminal conviction, and some nine or so months in custody.

Under Russian law, quantity matters

Russian law – just as many jurisdictions, including many American states – does not recognize medical uses of marijuana. Griner has been traveling to Russia for eight years and will have been expected to know this.

Under Russian law, the amount in her hand luggage qualified as a "significant amount" – the lowest threshold of criminal liability.

Another individual whose situation is receiving more media attention in light of the Griner case is Marc Fogel, an American still serving a criminal sentence in Russia of 14 years for smuggling narcotics. His case fell into the next category – a "large-scale amount" of marijuana, and a more severe sentence. He beyond doubt was aware of the risks in bringing it in for personal medical purposes.

There is no question that the sentences imposed on Griner and Fogel were severe. Other alternatives were potentially available, including administrative responsibility – a legal code embodying a category of offenses we do not have in Common Law jurisdictions. There are sanctions for violations, but they are not treated as criminal.

Without imputing political motives to the apprehension of Griner – which may or may not be justified – the Russian Procuracy will have had reason to assume that both Griner and Fogel acted with direct intent both in the narrow legal sense and in the larger human sense. Both are familiar with Russia, not casual tourists. They brought in a prohibited substance, had prior experience with and knowledge of Russian legal practice in this domain, and nonetheless either carelessly or knowingly brought in a prohibited drug.

The problem of 'Americanizing' Russian law

Another lesson to be learned from the Griner case is that American media frequently experiences difficulty in explaining foreign systems of criminal law. Part of the problem is the "Americanizing" or "Anglicizing" of Russian criminal law and procedure. In the Griner case, most media reported that she was liable to punishment of up to 10 years, but omitted to say that the Criminal Code imposed a minimum of five years. This understated the gravity of the offense in Russian law. The nine-year sentence handed to Griner was on the heavy end, but not unheard of or unreasonable and is consistent with the Fogel sentence.

That wasn't the only misstep in foreign media reporting. The accusation of smuggling was widely and correctly reported, but said nothing about the charge of possession. References were made to a "guilty plea" by Griner, but Russian criminal procedure does not have pleas. The prosecution had to prove its case irrespective of what the accused may say.

There are good historical reasons from the Soviet past as to why acknowledgments of guilt – or "confessions" – do not affect the burden of proof on the prosecution. In this case, however, the burden of proof was easy to satisfy, and Griner's counsel will have given sound advice in suggesting that she acknowledge guilt after the prosecution had presented its case.

We have yet to hear a more complete version of Griner's side since her return to the U.S. One must hope that the American negotiators achieved not only the exchange, but an outcome which gives her no record of conviction in Russia and enables her, at an appropriate time, to resume her million-dollar Russian contract if she wishes to do so and circumstances permit.

No one's keeping up with Jones

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Sherlyn Jones won her third CNMI Women's Golf Association monthly tournament of the season—and fourth for the calendar year—last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The retired Commonwealth Health Center nurse topped the CWGA December tournament after shooting a net 77 after a gross score of 87. The 10-handicapper started with a 40 in the front nine before closing with a 47 in the back nine.

Jones beat a 10-player field that included runner-up Yuko Togawa with her net 79 (gross 82, 38-44) and third place Doll Yamagishi with her net 80 (gross 94, 46-48).

"The weather was beautiful and the course smelled of freshly cut grass and the sound of nature all around you. I just enjoyed the whole 18 holes," she said.

Jones, who also won the May and the August editions of the tournament plus the January ace last season, started playing the sport after being invited by Terry Attao to play a round in 2007.

"I'm dedicating this game to my family. I'm just grateful for being able to play this sport. Always go out there and enjoy your game with family and friends," said the Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia native.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sherlyn Jones, fourth from right, poses with the rest of the golfers who took part in the CNMI Women's Golf Association December tournament last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Aside from Jones, Togawa, and Yamagishi, the other CWGA members that took part in the December tourney are the following with their net scores in parenthesis: SaeHae Kim (82), Sunny Son (83), Flor Jones (84), and Lou Kim (84). Tina Goodwin and Kanae Quinn also played as guests and shot a 93 and 96, respectively.

With her victory, Jones broke a three-way tie for most wins for the season. Togawa also previously won in June and July, while Son Hyun topped the September and October tourneys. Jang EunAe was the winner last month (November).

CWGA continues to look for new members as the 2022 season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

2022 Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting tourney on Jan. 7

CNMI Weightlifting will hold the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament on Jan. 7 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Entry fee is $20 for non-members, while CNMI Weightlifting members get to compete for free.

Entry forms can be obtained from CNMI Weightlifting secretary Jeanne Rayphand at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. office in Gualo Rai.

Entries must be received by CNMI Weightlifting's Rayphand on or before Dec. 31, 2022.

For more information about the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament, call Jeanne Rayphand, (670) 287-9807 or (670) 235-7273. ***(PR)***

RAMON

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and Antonette Labausa—as he maneuvered complex boogie board tricks through both competition days.

The judging criteria was based on the surfer's choice of wave, commitment and degree of difficulty, and combination of major maneuvers—with Ramon scoring 8s, 9s, or 10s across the board.

In the finals, Ramon caught good waves and successfully completed tricks like the "El Rollo," in which he reaches the lip of the wave and quickly completes an arc before landing again in the water. It was evident he gave it his all, as his board shorts were seen with a huge tear after the competition.

The path to the finals for the Top 4 began on a sun-soaked, music-filled, beach day Saturday with the parking lot full of cars and tents of vendors and entertainment and the beach full of families barbecuing and watching the competition unfurl.

Ramon advanced to Sunday's semifinals and finals as he totaled 246.2 points after two heats on Saturday. He then competed against eight surfers in the semifinals and gathered 141.15 points, the highest score amongst them all and secured his spot in the final four.

Although he won, Ramon was humble and said he wasn't expecting to win and that during the competition, he was cheering and supporting the younger surfers.

"I wasn't expecting this. Thank you to my fellow surfers today, big ups to my brothers. I love those guys. I just wanted to come out here and have some fun and support the younger guys… Thank you, thank you Lord. I owe this to everybody, my family… Thank you my love, my kids, everybody. And to the organizers out here, thank you for making this happen. And to our visitors from Guam, everywhere, and all the people locally that came to see us, thank you!"

David Cabrera, an organizing committee member and beach marshal of the event, said it was "a dream come true… the buildup, the reception from the community, the reception from the surf community most especially, and the support that we got from the general public to finally come and have completed this event. And for a very deserving champion to come out on top, is really a dream come true. I'm happy we put it together, and I'm so glad the community came out to celebrate it with us."

Tournament director Edward Manibusan said that the competition was "Hot and a lot of the scores were only separated by a few points in almost all the heats, so that was really exciting… You can just tell that all our surfers are super skilled and they've worked hard for that. They've been practicing their time in the water and I think it's all very telling when you see the scores."

He then said about the champion that he is "probably one of the humblest, gentlest, and one of the kindest individuals I've ever met… When he gets out in the water, he is a monster. He is fierce. You saw a lot in… his surfing, you can see his aggression come out in the water, but as a person, he's an awesome individual and very deserving of this opportunity and for this championship."

Joe Villacrusis, co-owner of Salty Skin Pacific and also part of the organizing committee, served as venue director and also announced the winners of the competition.

The 12 other surfers were Michael Johnson, Herman Guerrero, Joey Tudela, Jacob Yamagishi, Abbas Shakir, Ian Fleming, Maverick Itibus, Tony Atalig, Sidney Camacho, Shuji Takanobu, Vincent Villagomez, and J.R. Villagomez.

The next Boogie Down at Obyan competition is set for about the same time next year.

Sponsors of the event were Saipan Surf Company, Local Bones, Salty Skin Pacific LLC, Marianas Surf Skate League Inc., Kona Brewing Co., Lotus Surf Shop, Turn-Key Solutions, ONVOUS, Borderline, Roil Soil Marketing, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, BluLily Craft & Design, DASH LLC, Office of Rep. Sheila J. Babauta, Office of Rep. Joel Camacho, Office of Rep. Roy Ada, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, Pualani Crown, Island Tide Records, Tanom Writing & Design Services, INK Harbor, MVA, Ginen i Tasi, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Medical Services, Marianas Visitors Authority, Division of Coastal Resource Management, and Department of Land and Natural Resources.

HAGU

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shot, and finally, a home run by George David.

Asahi's Hector Efraim, Suo Matsutaro, and Marino Hiroichi also contributed home runs, but their team couldn't catch up as they were already behind by 11 runs, with only one more run made in the last couple of innings.

Game 1 of the best-of-three championship is on Dec. 18 at 9am, with Game 2 at 10am. If needed, the tie-breaking third championship game is scheduled for 1pm.

Results of Game 1 of the women's championship will be posted in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

PERISIC

From Page 20

to seize his moment at the World Cup — and he's no stranger to that. Because just like teammate Luka Modric, Perišić keeps on proving he is the man for the big occasion for Croatia.

Like scoring in the World Cup final in 2018. Like finding the net in five straight major tournaments to be the all-time top scorer in them for his country, with 10 goals. Like digging Croatia out of a hole against Japan in the round of 16 last week by heading in the equalizer, just when his team seemed out of ideas.

Perišić is still going strong at the age of 33, still a permanent fixture on the left wing for his national team and still showing his ability to deliver crosses with both feet and make those late runs into the box.

In that respect, his son has the perfect teacher.

It was put to Perišić on Monday, the day before Croatia takes on Argentina in the semifinals, that he should be regarded as a World Cup great for what he has done for his national team in 2018 and again this year. As modest as ever, he played it down.

"I said a lot of times, it is not so much about the goals or the records for me," he said through an interpreter. "It is just important that the national team, or your club team, is winning. If I do a couple of goals or assists, it is a plus. I do what I am asked to do."

For Croatia, that means playing on the left side of a three-man attack. It gives him more opportunities to score and set up goals compared to when he plays for Tottenham, where he is used as a wing back by manager Antonio Conte.

Maybe Tottenham is missing a trick.

Because he is two-footed and so good in the air, Perišić is hard to keep down. Just ask Japan, which couldn't stop him from leaping to meet a cross into the area with a header into the bottom corner from near the penalty spot.

Against France in the World Cup final four years ago, he made it 1-1 with a left-foot shot from just inside the area. It was also Perišić who equalized in the semifinals against England with a flying volley, sparking Croatia's come-from-behind 2-1 victory in Moscow.

That win over England was described by coach Zlatko Dalić on Monday as the biggest win in Croatia's history. Perišić said the match against Argentina is just as big.

"I think it's going to be a similar match," Perišić said. "England also had a strong squad but it depends a lot on us. If we play the right way, like against Brazil in the quarterfinals, everything is possible."

While this could be Perišić's final World Cup, a lot more has been made of it being the last one for Modric, who is still the heartbeat of the team at the age of 37.

That also will be motivating Perišić in the match against Argentina and its star player, Lionel Messi, who is likely playing in his last World Cup, too.

"We saw a couple of days ago that Portugal, with Cristiano (Ronaldo), lost," he said. "He was here five times at the World Cup and was unable to win.

"Messi with Argentina is trying to do the same in his fifth time. He'll be doing his best to get to the final and win the trophy. But we will be giving 100% in our performance."

Durant, Irving propel rested Nets past skidding Wizards

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Sports

No one's keeping up with Jones

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Ramon champ of inaugural surf contest

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

One could just hear the surf rock melody of "Wipe Out" by the Surfaris in the background as 16 of the CNMI's very own surfers took to the waters off Obyan Beach for the first ever two-day surf contest dubbed Boogie Down at Obyan last Saturday and Sunday with Frank Ramon emaging as the first champion.

Ramon, a veteran surfer of about 20 years and the oldest competitor, surfed his way to the top in the championship heat with a final tally of 133.95 points, winning $500 cash and a boogie board shaped 1st place trophy.

A close second is Masaki Kitami with 132.5 points, winning a $250 cash prize and second place trophy; and third place is Solomon Castro with 126.4 points, winning a $100 cash prize and trophy. Fourth place is Austin Benavente with 122.35 points.

The Wave of the Day went to Masaki Kitami who won a new board as a prize.

Ramon was one with the waves as he rode the tide into the finals with consistent high scores from the three judges—Joe Guerrero, Eddie Johnson,

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LEIGH GASES

From left, first place Frank Ramon, second place and Wave of the Day winner Masaki Kitami, and third place Solomon Castro pose for a photo during the awards ceremony of the Boogie Down at Obyan last Sunday at Obyan Beach.

Perisic looks to seize the big moment again at the World Cup

AP

Croatia's Ivan Perisic celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Japan and Croatia at the Al Janoub Stadium in Al Wakrah, Qatar, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022

By STEVE DOUGLAS
AP SPORTS WRITER

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—The late run. The timing. The delivery. Leo Perišić has certainly learned a thing or two from his father.

While Ivan Perišić has been his usual consistent self at the World Cup to help Croatia reach the semifinals, the winger's young son has provided one of the more touching moments of the tournament.

After Croatia beat Brazil in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals, Leo somehow got on the field and sprinted toward the center circle, where Neymar was being consoled by Dani Alves.

The kid, wearing a Croatia jersey with his father's No. 4 on the back, was initially told to hang back by a Brazilian member of staff. He waited and waited, then reached out a hand toward Neymar. The Brazil superstar spotted him and ended up embracing him.

Now it's time for his father

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Hagu La'mun vs Tokahao in Belau softball men's finals

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Hagu La'mun and Tokahao blasted through their respective opponents in the semifinals last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field to seal a finals seat in the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Softball Association League.

The mighty Sufa have fallen after Hagu La'mun defeated them, 13-10, in dramatic fashion. The Sufa's bats were just not up to par during the game, with the lineup silenced in three innings, which allowed Hagu La'mun to capitalize.

While Sufa did have a six-run first inning, Hagu La'mun returned the favor and more in the second with eight runs. A solo home run was made by Glen Camacho, followed by his teammates that were greedy for runs after him.

Sufa's Jun Salalila shot a two-run home run in the sixth inning, breaking their three-inning silence. However, Hagu La'mun's pitcher Joe Celis stopped Sufa's try for a rally, with Audie Maratita scoring their last point through a solo home run in the final inning.

Then, Hagu La'mun broke the 10-run tie in the last inning after three runs were scored by Dennis Cruz, Tim Wesley, and Camacho at the top of their lineup and took the W away from Sufa.

In the last semifinal bout of the day, Tokahao ended Asahi's run to the championships, 23-12, in a run-ruled game.

Tokahao's bats were ball magnets throughout the game as they clobbered Asahi pitcher Dominic Hideo into a drunken stupor after a 13-run third inning.

The game had the makings of a home run derby as back-to-back home runs were made by Tokahao with Jeff Cruz's home run in the top of the third inning. He was followed by Jojo Attao's home run, then Bruce Norita's solo

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LEIGH GASES

Tokahao outfielders catch the last out of the game as they won over Asahi, 23-12 in the semifinals of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.